

THE
P H O E N I X;
OR, THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
POLYARCHUS AND ARGENIS.

Translated from the LATIN,

By a L A D Y.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOLUME III.

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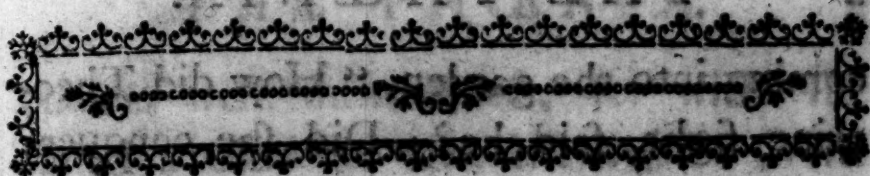
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BOOK III. CHAP. XVI.

Seleniffa and Radirobanes meet in the garden.

Her continuation of the story of Theocrine.

The combat in the night, with the deliverance of Meleander and Argenis.

IN the mean time Radirobanes was troubled with far different emotions, arising from Seleniffa's narration. As soon as he had embraced the old woman, at her

coming into the garden. "How did Theocrine fight, said he?—Did she conquer? O mother, I have spent a night in great perplexity in thinking and dreaming of her!—for yesterday we left her fighting with too many odds against her. But, above all things, how does our Argenis?—Will she be gracious?"—"O king, said Selenissa, the Gods have accepted your offerings!—unless indeed I should call myself eloquent, and impute it to my persuasion that Argenis begins to be sensible she has not been just to your merit; and what could you desire more? I have brought her to think differently, and to treat you more favourably; in a word, she has promised to come hither to us.—But while she is dressing let us finish the narration, for it highly concerns you to be acquainted with Theocrine. She fought, as I have told you; and having armed herself with the spoils of her enemies, it seemed as if she only were the soldier, and they brought up in a lady's chamber. Two of the villains lay dead at her feet; as many were remaining; none of the combatants

batants were unwounded; for while she aimed a blow at one, the other's sword reached her forehead. The blood gushed out, and ran down her beautiful face; then frowning severely upon them, and flying towards them she seemed more than mortal. We had scarcely perceived she was hurt, before she had cut off the hand from which she received the blow; and when the ruffians, weakened with many wounds, ran away, she neither fearing darkness nor danger, boldly pursued them out of the chamber.

But while the darkness sheltered them from her vengeance, a fresh out-cry reached her ears; for the other party of the ruffians had broken into the king's bed-chamber, and seizing upon his person, were going to bind him, and to carry him, according to their promise, to Lycogenes. Meleander awakened in the tumult, and though heavy with sleep, and surprised at the sight of armed men, had laid hold of his sword, which was at his bed's head, and hastily got upon his feet, that he might defend his

life and liberty. But before he could get a firm footing, they not revering his sacred person, nor that name next to the Gods, threw him back upon the bed, and wresting his sword out of his hand, one of them dared to strike him on the face. And now they had bound his hands, and were leading him away like a condemned person, with his head covered, proudly complaining that their companions were not returned with their share of the prey; when Theocrine, triumphant in her success, and enraged with the fight and her wound, came to the king's assistance; and seeing him a prisoner, with a furious voice exclaimed, "O you the worst of parricides! you shall fall beneath this sword, which is yet warm with the blood of your companions.—Unworthy as you are to die by my sword, some of you shall endure a more shameful punishment!" —Neither were her actions less terrible than her words. In the struggle the cloth fell down, with which they had blinded the eyes of Meleander. Then he saw his deliverer; he saw Theocrine engaged against so many, and

and saw also that fortune enabled her to punish one before his eyes, and by his death warned the rest of the success of their wicked enterprize. You would have admired, that Theocrine, with so many swords pointed against her, could not bear to see the king bound. O most sacred monarch; (she exclaimed) how long shall I see thee a captive?—And so saying, she cut the cords that bound him, and with her body guarded him till he had recovered a sword.

At this Radirobanes broke that silence, which with pain he had kept; and cried out, “O wonders resembling antient fables! what age hath seen the like of this?—From whence had the virgin this strength and courage?—How was the king beloved of the Gods, that this miracle should be wrought for his preservation!—O Selenissa, is all this true that you tell me?—Excuse me if these marvellous things occasion doubts in me!”—“Then, said the old woman, so mayest thou, O king, be good to me!—so may Argenis be gracious to thee as this is true!—no less so than

that I live, and you are in love."—"Proceed then, said Radirobanes, and relate all the prodigies of that famous night."—"Meleander (said she) being freed from his bonds, was not wanting to his own safety, nor Theocrine's danger: by their valour one fell, another fled, the third Theocrine secured, and binding his hands behind him, delivered him to Meleander. Keep this man secure, said she, and if you, O king, desire your safety, stay here till I return.—He that is fled must not escape, and besides I must see if there be any farther treachery remaining.

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7

that I live, and you are in love." — "Pro-
ceed then, and relate all

CHAP. XVII.

*The continuation of Selenissa's narration. The
discovery of Polyarchus, and his departure.
The king searches for Theocrine.*

WITH these words she left the king,
and returned to Argenis's chamber,
in which all our women in great fright were
assembled together. Collect your spirits,
Sir, for what I shall now relate will amaze
and confound you, and demand all your
fortitude to bear it. Theocrine, hot with
the fight, assumed a different aspect; her
eyes looked with a masculine boldness; her
whole countenance altered. She took Ar-
genis by the hand, and bade me to follow
her. When we were out of hearing of the
rest she began as follows: "I render
thanks to the Gods, that they impelled me,
by the strength of a virtuous affection, to
make use of this habit, and to get into this
house, with no wicked or unprofitable de-
ception. — This disguise, lady, hath pre-
served you and your father, whom by the

Gods' assistance I have freed from these villains. Why should I any longer dissemble my sex, when this engagement hath proved me to be a man?—

I have deceived you, lady—I have loved with greater boldness than you would have allowed, and have made use of a female habit, that under the sanction of it I might be admitted, where otherwise I durst not hope to come. But let it in part excuse my fault, that being so long conversant among you, I have so behaved myself, as that no immodest action hath discovered my sex. If I had wanted modesty, what I might have done among women, you may judge, by what you have seen, by what I have done among men.—Nor is it my intention to boast of my valour, or my continence; it is sufficient, dear lady, if they may obtain your pardon—for know that I am neither in my birth or fortune unworthy to aspire to a royal marriage.—I have followed your fame out of a far distant country, brought hither, as I think, by the direction of the Gods. To see you, and enjoy your

con-

conversation, I feigned myself a woman. The story I told of the cruelty of my uncle, and the misfortunes of my mother, were all of my own invention.—I now go hence, far more deeply wounded than I came hither; for how small a part of your virtues did fame deliver to me, and yet that was sufficient to conquer me.”

Radirobanes was struck at these words: “I am undone, Selenissa, said he; I am lost! —What new Achilles is this in effeminate attire?—What Thetis instructed him in this artifice?—I am undone if this is he whom Argenis loves?”—It is the same, said she, and do not think this is a common secret, for Meleander himself is yet ignorant of it.—For what remains, he said he must stay with us no longer; that his actions that night would make him suspected by the king, and render it impossible for him to be long undiscovered.—That he would shortly return to court, but in the dress and equipage of a soldier; that he would attend me either at Syracuse, or at the palace, as often as I should come out of the castle;

that his name was Polyarchus; and finally, that he would live no longer than he was favoured by Argenis. Consider, O king, in what a situation we both were. If only the relation move you who are a man, think how the reality must amaze us being women?—After this he whispered a few words privately in Argenis's ear, which I believe were to inform her of his true name, birth and country, which he begged her to keep secret, and has found her faithful, for it is the only secret which Argenis has always kept from me.—Then he asked me for the keys of the castle, which I always kept.—Go you, said he to Meleander, I will raise the watch and guard, lest this conspiracy should not yet be entirely defeated.—The night was so dark and cloudy, that no star appeared. He opened the gate, and standing in the entry of the castle, he cried out that traitors had broke in upon the king, and desired that the soldiers would hasten to his assistance; that the danger was present and urgent, and the mischief almost executed.—Having several times proclaimed

proclaimed this aloud, he withdrew in the dark, and presently turned out of the highway, and departed unseen.

In the mean time, those in guard nearest the castle were instantly raised with this unexpected alarm: they ran with all haste to show their fidelity, some dress'd and armed, and some half naked; and now they entered the castle, and the hall swarmed with soldiers. When they had got lights, and sought in vain for the enemy, they began to fear some apparition had deluded them. But the chief officers, with Eurimedes, came to the king's chamber, where Argenis and myself then were. Our confusion, and the trouble in the king's countenance, but especially the dead bodies that lay before us, were evidences of the danger we had been in. They therefore came about the king, and seeing him safe, they kissed his hand, and all asking questions together, prevented the information they desired. Several of them with lights searched about to find if any were concealed: they then began to examine the prisoner; some pulled

THE PHOENIX.

him by the beard, some pointed their swords at his breast. But Meleander, desirous to examine him further, committed him to the care of Eurimedes. And now being surrounded by a guard of his own people, he came to Argenis's chamber, where he heard from us the relation, how Theocrine had first vanquished the other party of the conspirators. Here they saw the two other bodies, with wounds upon them more than sufficient for their deaths. They then earnestly enquired who had been the actors of these great exploits ! but when we told them this great work was accomplished by a maiden, they stood wrapt in silent admiration, looking up and down for the conqueror. The king commanded her to be called, and because we told him that two of the villains ran away from this place, he recollected that another fled from his own chamber, and he ordered them to search through the house, to find and bring them to him. At length they returned, and told the king, that neither the fugitives nor Theocrine were to be found. Meleander
was

was less solicitous about the villains, but he grew impatient of Theocrine's absence. Again he sent others to seek for her every where, and the house rang with the name of Theocrine. Argenis and I well knew that the person used to answer to that name was far enough out of hearing, and using the benefit of the night was got out of reach by this time. And the first sign I observed of Argenis's love to him was, that she so perfectly well dissembled what both of us knew, that she almost deceived me as well as the rest.

CHAP. XVIII.

The story continued. Theocrine not to be found. The king attributes his deliverance to the Goddess Pallas. This belief confirmed by the opinion of others. Lycogenes discovered to be the author of the conspiracy.

THE remainder of the night was spent in these uncertainties. The next morning the king gave notice to Cleobulus and the rest of his counsellors of what had happened. They came without delay, and the king commanded them to proceed to the examination of the prisoner, while he spoke to those about him in this manner: Although these villains have committed a heinous offence against the Gods and myself, and it is necessary that the guilty should be discovered and punished; yet I do not desire my own revenge, so much as to see my preserver. Wherever Theocrine is, till I know she is in

in safety I cannot be happy. The Gods grant she be not fallen into the hands of some of these traitors! — While he was speaking, the party returned that had been the second time to seek for her. They assured the king there were no signs of her in the castle, nor in any of the fields near it: if any mischance had happened to her, at least her body must have been found. — The king stood amazed: he kept silence for some time, seeming lost in thought. — At length, turning to the image of Jupiter, which stood upon the altar near him, “Great Jove, said he, if I have judged right, confirm my belief in this prodigy! — It is by the hand of a deity that I am delivered from the swords of these traitors. O Theocrina! if it be yet lawful for us to call thee by that name, no mortal virgin art thou, nor one of the inferior Gods! — thou art the divine Pallas! — thou art the Goddess of arts and arms, indebted only to the supreme Jupiter for thy being! — Thee, O Goddess, I acknowledge and adore: suffer not thy
Sici-

Sicilians to be ignorant of thy favours to them; for it is thou who, by thy father's direction, or thine own goodness, hast delivered us from our enemies. — O thrice happy Argenis, hadst thou known thy own good fortune! — hadst thou known that Pallas herself deigned to converse with thee, and, to conceal her deity, became one of thy attendants. — If you ask my reasons for believing this, first, I remember her countenance, which the same divine power that kept me from discovering her divinity, now, though late, causes me to observe it. What lustre was there in her eyes! If you call her features to mind, you will perceive, that though under a mortal form, she did not throw off all the rays of her divinity. But who can doubt of the author of this benefit, after this conflict, only worthy of Pallas herself? — Can we imagine that so many men fell by the hand of a weak and timorous virgin? — Shall we be so blind in discerning the hand of Heaven, as to refuse to acknowledge the divine power, and ascribe

to

to her the victory?—She is returned to Heaven again; or perhaps she remains among us invisible, to try our gratitude to our preserver.”

While Meleander was thus speaking, a murmur of approbation arose among his auditors. You know the dispositions of men, especially of the multitude, how easily they ascribe to the Gods any great or extraordinary event, and are presently carried away by the most violent superstition. Besides, it was a glory to Sicily, that the Gods themselves had fought for the safety of her princes. The king's speech was therefore received with universal applause; the soldiers invoked the Goddess by the names of Minerva, Tritonia, and all the appellations that are given to her; some through their own superstition, others to please the king, and the rest through a desire to share in the general joy.—But do you not think Argenis and I secretly smiled at these high-raised imaginations? Yet the fancy did not stop here: a certain soldier, transported with enthusiasm or flattery,

flattery, exclaimed — "But what glorious appearance was that I saw at the top of the castle, when first I heard the alarm? — A radiant light shone, as I thought, from the roof of the building. I believed it was on fire, and that we were called to quench it. Then the light began to be divided into rays like the sun, which by degrees ascended to heaven. But the danger I heard your majesty was in, diverted my mind from the admiration of that which I now remember with reverence: it was certainly Pallas returning to Heaven after she had freed you from the danger." The soldier had no sooner ended, than many others, seized with the same frenzy, affirmed that they had seen the same thing as that which he either dreamed or feigned. So this fable having many authors, at length became authentic, and they seemed to contend eagerly who should be the most forward to make a Goddess of Theocrina, with the consent of reason, and with public adoration. But when they congratulated Argenis that she was

honoured

honoured with the presence and protection of the Goddess, she cast down her eyes, and under the appearance of modesty restrained herself from smiling. At length, when they had sufficiently adored Minerva, the king, with some of his council, withdrew to consider the enormity of the late action, and to discover the contrivers of it; and I retired with Argenis into her apartment, to talk of Polyarchus. Argenis said, it was not by restraining his natural disposition for a while, but the effect of true virtue, that he had behaved with so much modesty and reserve for so long a time. Who was more chaste in behaviour and conversation? — Who more gentle among women? — Who so valiant in fight? — Who so daring among men? — Then she recounted the benefits that Meleander had received from him, worthy in his own opinion to be ascribed to the Gods. Then, but with some bashfulness, she took notice of the greatness of his love, that induced him to dissemble his sex, and run so great a hazard, exposing himself to certain punishment

nishment if he had been discovered. I confess, O king, I endeavoured to relieve the lady's modesty by commending those qualities I knew to be pleasing to her; and because I was yet unacquainted with you, I thought higher of no man than of Polyarchus.

In the mean time, Cleobulus had examined the prisoner, concerning the authors and means of the treason. He, unable to endure the rack, confessed all that he knew, and laid all upon Lycogenes. He said farther, that he found means to climb up into the castle, from the side next the sea, by casting certain hooks upon the wall, which laid hold on the stones, and bore the cords by which they climbed up to the top. — At this time the wiser sort blamed the king extremely; for when he might easily have surprized Lycogenes, he rather sent messengers to require him to come to court. But he thinking himself secure, and not easily apprehended, despised the danger. He had assembled the boldest of his faction the day before, who, though they

they were ignorant of the design, yet prepared for the success; and, under pretence of hunting, removed to a castle of strength near Leontium. From thence he sent letters to the king, signifying that he could not come safely to his trial among so many enemies; neither was it just that he should be condemned unheard; finally, that no credit was to be given to cut-throats and slaves suborned for his destruction.

In the mean time he increased in faction and power; and though the king was blamed for his too great lenity at first, afterwards it became necessary to write to him as to an innocent man. Cleobulus himself advised, that unless the king resolved to punish him severely, it was better to seem not to credit the accusation. They also advised that the prisoner should be put to death in the castle, and to give it out that he died by accident or sickness. Yet Lycogenes could never forget what he had deserved, nor Meleander what he had attempted. Thus neither of them could trust each other,
and

and both feared each other's power. These suspicions grew at length to hatred, and the consequences were not less pernicious than the civil wars which ensued, and which arose from these beginnings.

MELBA ANDER, relying on longer credit was to be given to the monarch and which had given a substantial to the royal treasury. The king, therefore, went to the temple and assembling the people together, he delivered himself on this effect: "I have already known as well as he could tell, that the theodotes the Goddote is all that I have feared on Stelive, but that this Goddote is a man that he should frequently and

CHAP. XIX.

Selenissa relates how the king instituted sacrifices in honour of Pallas, and consecrates his daughter chief priestess to the Goddess. —

Also how Polyarchus coming to court, meets Argenis, where they promised each other marriage.

MELEANDER relying no longer upon the security of the cattle, which had given admittance to those traitors, determined to carry his daughter to Syracuse; not so much out of displeasure against Lycogenes, as gratitude to Pallas for his deliverance. The solemnity of the five days festivals were near at hand, when we used to celebrate the nativity of the Goddess. The king therefore went to the temple, and assembling the people together, he delivered himself to this effect: That they already knew, as well as he could tell them, the benefits the Goddess Pallas had conferred on Sicily; but that his gratitude required that he should frequently and par-

particularly acknowledge the favours that his family apparently had received from her. Then he related the plot laid for himself and Argenis, yet concealing his knowledge of the author of that treason, he mentioned not a word of Lycogenes, but declared that Pallas in the form of a mortal woman, and veiled under the name of Theocrine, had rescued them from the danger. But what pledge, O citizens, (continued he) can I render to the Goddess, that I will not forget the assistance she hath given me — except I consecrate to her service the most precious jewel she preserved to me, I mean my best treasure, my dearest Argenis! — Her therefore I dedicate before all the Gods, in this public assembly of my Sicilians, to be the chief priestess of Pallas. — I appoint her to attend upon the altar of Pallas, and to take charge of her temple, till by the authority of Juno she be released; in effect, till she shall be married. When the king had done speaking, Argenis, as he had appointed, came forward to her father. The king held in his hand

hand a white robe, on which was wrought the history of Pallas, he threw it over the neck of his daughter kneeling before him; “If, said he, thou canst not serve the Goddess without being freed from thy father’s authority, from henceforth be thou free.—Only the marriage rites shall take thee from those of Pallas. The Sicilians shall behold thee performing the sacred ceremonies on all public days to the honour of the Goddess.” These words of Meleander were followed by many superstitions of the people, poured forth in applauses, prayers, and tears. The whole city followed them at their return to the palace, and afterwards they celebrated these new ceremonies in every house with all the marks of festivity.

Here Radirobanes, burning with jealousy, interrupted her.—“Tell me, Selenissa, did Argenis suffer her father to be thus deceived?—did she accept the priestly robe from him?—would she not set him free from this ridiculous idolatry?—or did she suffer herself to be dedicated to Polyarchus

under the name of Pallas?" — "Then, said the old woman, I was vexed that the jest was carried so far, but if I had opposed it, I must have incurred the displeasure of Argenis, who now avowed to me her affection to Polyarchus. It would not have pleased Meleander to have convinced him of his deception; besides it was an honour to have a Goddess for his protection: moreover, he had another intention in the consecration of his daughter to the priesthood, that the people might be accustomed to behold and respect the heiress of the crown. Neither were these holy rites unworthy the assistance of a princess. Her robe was glorious to behold, embroidered with gold and figures, and the ornaments of her head such that you would rather have thought her a Goddess herself, than a priestess. She only touched the sacrifices lightly before they were killed, then she offered the incense to Pallas, and afterwards sat down in a golden seat to receive the people, who came in multitudes to kiss the sacred bough which she held in her hand. Soon after
Polyarchus

Polyarchus came to court as a knight, the same man accompanied him whom he had feigned to be his kinsman, but now he appeared to be his freedman and confidant, and he called him Gelanorus. At first he addressed himself to Eurimedes, and very soon, by the sympathy there is in noble dispositions, they became endeared to each other: he was afterwards by him presented to the king; he told him, that he came from a distant country, and would reckon it among his felicities, if he might have leave to improve himself in the court of so great a prince. The king, who had seen Theocrine very seldom, was so much a stranger to him, thus changed in voice, habit, and deportment, that he spoke to him as a stranger newly landed in Sicily. Yet he admired his person and behaviour, and every thing in this stranger being extraordinary, prepared the way for the high degree of favour that he afterwards had conferred upon him.

Now the time of the festival of Pallas returned, when Argenis must appear at

the temple. We both knew that Polyarchus was at court, and therefore both trembled, she with excessive joy, I with doubts and fears lest she should commit some error, unworthy of her birth and education. But the virtuous disposition of these two lovers prevented all my suspicions. Excuse me, O king, if I commend Polyarchus in your presence — but truly Argenis were unworthy of your love, if she had given way to any base and ignoble affection; neither should you be indebted to my esteem, unless I preferred you to so noble a gentleman as nobody but yourself could excel. But when Argenis received this notice, she almost forgot the ceremonies she was to perform; she regarded not the ornaments of her priesthood, nor the company with which she was surrounded, nor the matrons and virgins attending her; being wrapped up in thoughts of Polyarchus, she could neither see, speak nor hear: but I knowing her malady, whispered in her ear, and desired her to recollect herself, and she (who never before wanted such an admonition) blushed

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exceedingly, and resumed her dignity. We therefore went to the temple, and the sacrifices were touched by Argenis; when presently I observed that she was again involved in the same perplexity, and being assured that this was the effect of that enchantment which miserable lovers suffer, I looked about to see from whence this arrow flew, and not far from us I espied Polyarchus drest as a man, but he seemed taller, and I should not easily have known him to be Theocrine. It was no wonder that Meleander should be deceived, for with his woman's attire he had laid aside every thing womanish and effeminate; his countenance grave and erect, his eye brisk, and roving with a modest but manly liberty; his hair with a most graceful negligence lay upon his forehead and temples; observing him carefully I called to my mind Theocrine. "And is it she, said I?—O ye Gods, it is she!—so many graces! a mind conformable to every habit and purpose can be no other: and did those hands exercise the distaff?"—At the sight I excused

Argenis if she were loft in amazement; but defirous to recal her to herfelf, and the duties of the prefent occafion, I pretended to adjust her robes and whifpered thus: “Remember, lady, that Polyarchus will not be pleafed if you forget what is due to yourfelf.” At thefe words ſhe feemed to wake out of a fleep. She therefore repeated the prayer which the prieft dictated, and willingly did this honour to Polyarchus, who in effect was worſhipped under the name of the Goddeſs; but he rather deſired to pray to one that worſhipped him, looking with a reſtleſs eye upon Argenis and myſelf.

From the temple we returned to the palace: you need not aſk the ſubject of our converſation, it was only of Polyarchus. “What offence ſhall we commit, ſaid Argenis, if we more religiously love and honour the preſerver of my father and myſelf, than they that know not his merits?—O that I could but ſpeak to him, that we might ſmile together at the vanity of my prieſthood!” “I will contrive

that

that you may do it, said I; by my assistance you shall see him." And this I promised the more freely, being afraid she should through modesty conceal her malady, and so her health might suffer: or, if I had refused her, she might unknown to me have taken measures to see him privately. When I left Argenis, I saw Polyarchus walking with my son before the gate. I went as if to speak to my son, and saluting the stranger, I told him to be again at the same place in the evening. To be brief, I brought him to Argenis, where he behaved with so much grace and modesty, that I thought he was again become Theocrine. There was no conference between them (though he often visited her) but in my presence: no boldness nor levity appeared in his behaviour, though a young man and a lover. Once he spoke to this effect: that he was descended from princes, and would no longer remain in a private station, than his love to Argenis obliged him; that he earnestly desired to be contracted to her, and that she would engage herself to him

him as the man that should be her husband.

“First, said Radirobanes, let him sink to hell!—O the boldness of this effeminate fellow!”—I knew not, said the old woman, what answer she could make to this request; and I had prepared to answer it for her, when she thus replied: “I call the Gods to witness, Polyarchus—(among whom I believe are none that are not favourable to thee) that if thou wast my brother, I would never consent to marry, lest I should be obliged to love any man more than thee. Thy virtues and the preservation of my liberty are the pledges of thy fidelity: I can require no other; let therefore the Gods be witnesses, and do thou also, Seleniffa, that I promise never to marry any man if not Polyarchus.”—At these words Radirobanes turned pale, and affirmed that some enchantment was wrought upon the lady, and that Polyarchus was a magician, and added such other reproaches against his happy rival as his indignation suggested.—When he had thus vented his passion he bade Seleniffa proceed.

I was amazed, said she, but it signified nothing to oppose it, and to incur their anger. The Gods, said I, grant your wishes! but surely it is a rash and sudden resolution you have taken.—But why, Polyarchus should you carry on this business privately?—why not openly declare your purposes to king Meleander?—If, as you affirm, and I believe, you are of princely rank and condition, there is no reason to think the king should refuse your alliance, having already done him such services, and being beloved by Argenis.—“ Grave matron (replied he) if you will excuse me, that a youthful inclination and an unconquerable desire to see Argenis drew me from my native country without attendants or any signs of my dignity, the rest I can easily excuse; being unknown and almost alone, how should I be able to satisfy the king of my birth and fortunes?—But I could not have survived the torments of love, if, still uncertain of the success of my wishes, I had been commanded to bring proofs of my birth and dignity from my

own country; you have therefore, lady, preserved me from the death I had resolved on, if you had been cruel to me. But I beseech you, marron, to lay aside all suspicion of our contract, for the same modesty I have observed being a lover, I will continue being a betrothed husband. It is sufficient for me to know that I am beloved; it is enough that my hope is confirmed, a stolen marriage does not suit me; I am more patient of delay, I will obtain the king's favour, and he shall command me to marry Argenis in the sight of all Sicily."

Having thus spoken, the modesty which he professed in words, he equalled in his actions, behaving in the same virtuous manner after their contract as before. He lived in the court, he hired servants, he filled his stables with horses, and by his equipage appeared a person of wealth and distinction. He won the esteem of most men by his noble qualities and graceful carriage, giving many proofs of his courage as occasions offered. By these means he
was

was in as high favour with the king as now you see Archombrotus. Gelanorus only was privy to his intentions, the rest of his servants were Sicilians, and knew not who their master was. He came frequently to visit Argenis, but always by my direction; you would have thought a brother conversed with his sister, in the presence of me their mother. They would sometimes jest upon the priesthood of Argenis, but very privately and discreetly. Radirobanes could not bridle his anger at this: "If Pallas had been just, said he, she would have entangled this counterfeit Goddess in more snares than those wherewith she made Arachne hang herself."

CHAP. XX.

Seleniffa brings Radirobanes to Argenis, who entertains him coldly, contrary to his hopes; on which Seleniffa chides her mistress.—A conversation between Meleander and Argenis, concerning her marriage.

WHILE they were thus engaged, a servant from Argenis interrupted their conference, who told Seleniffa his lady desired she would return, and, if she pleased, bring the king of Sardinia with her. “Go, (said she to the man,) and tell your lady we will attend her presently.” When the servant was gone, “O king, cried she, you are expected by Argenis.—I know not what hath prevented her coming to us; but as we go I will tell you, in few words, what remains to be known.” She therefore briefly related, that while Polyarchus lived in this happy state, the civil war broke out, and Lycogenes strengthened himself against the king. Polyarchus, capable to advise and execute, was no less hated by the fac-
tion

tion than was the king himself; and having signalized himself in the first battle, was the principal cause of the king's victory. She then told of the misfortune of Polyarchus, and what he endured for killing the ambassadors of Lycogenes. How he was driven out of Sicily; and that he had long been expected by Argenis to return. "And this is he, O king, said she, (that you may no longer impute it to Archombrotus) who hath hitherto been the cause of the lady's coldness to you." "But (said Radirobanes) think you, mother, that I can be secure of Argenis's faith so long as he lives?—Will she not renew her former vows?—If she now, as you tell me, will forsake Polyarchus, and favour me, may not I in the same manner be forsaken?"—"Never doubt, said the old woman; if Argenis consent to be your wife, there is nothing can induce her to violate her marriage vow.—I therefore think it necessary, that you should hasten your wedding as much as possible.—If Polyarchus should return in the mean time, I will lead him
into

into a snare that you shall lay for him. He suspects nothing, but will put himself into my hands. He must be removed, and it will not be difficult to surprize him unarmed or alone." Though Radiobanes was astonished at the wickedness of the woman, yet he approved of her advice: and thus discoursing, they came into the gallery to Argenis. She was walking alone, with a dejected countenance, as still affected with the late occasion of grief. Yet she went to meet Radiobanes, and desiring him to sit down, she took a seat beside him. While he, puffed up with the hopes the old woman had given him, made an offer of his vows in the most ardent terms, and left nothing unsaid to shew the force of his passion. Argenis behaved with great coolness, and gave him no answer to his expectation; which he took the more impatiently, because his hopes had been raised, and he believed he should have found her consenting to his wishes. Selenissa turned pale, when the king looked earnestly upon her, as reproaching her for the failure of her promise;

promise; for she was in fear, that finding himself deluded, he would burst into the language of resentment. As soon as he was gone out of the gallery, the old woman began boldly to blame Argenis; asking, what had made her alter her intention?—Why did she frustrate the hope she had given?—and telling her, that she ought, out of regard to her country, to take heed how she offended Radirobanes. But the lady, scarce able to command her indignation, replied, “Give over your prognostics of evil.—The Gods will take care of Sicily. Those Gods, by whose power you have seen traitors punished.”—The old woman, touched with these ambiguous words, and suspecting they were directed to her, trembled, and was much confused. These were the first stings of conscience that tormented her guilty breast; but she knew that the past mischiefs could only be supported or rendered of use by new ones. Fearful therefore of her own situation, she seriously considered by what means she might provoke Radirobanes to have recourse

course to arms; and then she would deliver Argenis into his power. But to prevent suspicion in the princess, she pretended to give over speaking in favour of Radirobanes; and would seem to complain, that Polyarchus was absent. But Argenis saw through her dissimulation, and hated her the more. But Radirobanes began now to show those vices, which having been restrained for a time, now returned with the greater force. He thought no reward equal to his merits, in the assistance he had brought to Meleander; and behaved himself so haughtily, as if he believed he had bought both Argenis and Sicily at too dear a rate. He therefore began to urge the king more disrespectfully to promise his daughter to him: and his haughty and insolent behaviour made him disliked by all the Sicilians, especially the nobility. But Meleander was greatly perplexed in his mind, fearing that this love of Radirobanes would not be ended without contention: and so that himself, an old man, unprovided, and tired with past wars, should be drawn

drawn into a new one. He therefore sent for his daughter, and asked what it was that she so much disliked in Radiobanes? "It is for private persons (said he) to make choice of whom they will marry by the fancy of love, and the sympathy of dispositions; but we must not indulge ourselves in these delicacies. It is the fortune of kings often to make alliances with disagreeable and unworthy people; and sometimes a cruel necessity even obliges us to neglect the ties of blood and affection. We must favour those that best suit our state; and those are thought the best alliances that most strengthen our kingdoms. If I had more children than thee, my Argenis, thou mightest think I was more anxious for myself than for thee: for I know that kings used to bestow their daughters and sisters upon those whom they deceive under shew of friendship, or desire to be upon good terms with for a time. But thou art my only child; nature, and the right of succession, have settled upon thee alone all my affections, as a king and a father; therefore,

fore, my daughter, either do thou consider what is best to be done, or suffer me to determine for thee."—"My gracious lord, replied Argenis, there is some cause that a maiden should give a reason for her wishes, if she desire any particular man for her husband; but not if she resolve to refuse any, whether it be reason or humour that induces her to deny her consent. But this Radirobanes perhaps I might not have hated so strongly, if he had sought to gain me by love, and not claimed me as his due: such pride and insolence I cannot endure. Yourself also, my dearest father, can see many things to dislike in this man. All these causes have made me take a resolution not to cast away, by this alliance, my father, my country, and myself."—The king finding her obstinate in this determination, dismissed her, resolving still to continue, as he had ever been, a most indulgent father.

CHAP. XXI.

Seleniffa persuades Radirobanes to carry off Argenis. He lays the plan of his enterprise, and prepares to carry it into execution.

RADIOROBANES, though greatly displeased with Seleniffa, because he found not the effects of her promises, was yet very desirous to keep up his correspondence with her; for he knew that she wanted neither wit nor industry; and besides he had made her his own, and the secrets she had betrayed were as the pledges of her fidelity to him. He had not trusted any but Vertiganes with the secret of his intelligence with Seleniffa, to whom also he eased his oppressed heart of many complaints, and sometimes threats against Meleander and Argenis, “I fear, my Vertiganes (said he) that my frequent conferences with Seleniffa should breed suspicions of my designs. I would therefore have you supply my place. When I

go

go to visit Argenis, you may easily speak to the old woman, and give her this letter, in which I complain that the ruin of the hopes she gave me, has made me the ridicule of Argenis. I have also written that she may trust you with any secret relating to this business, for that you are my chief adviser and confidant. Verriganes accepted the employment; and the first time Radirobanes visited Argenis, he privately delivered the letter to Selenissa, who stepped aside to read it. She considered that if this marriage did not go forward, she was ruined on both sides; therefore taking a bold and immediate resolution, she returned to the Ligurian, saying, "Tell your king, that I have not failed in any point of my promise; but these times and seasons require a resolute and active lover, and not a slow and negligent one. He is a king; he hath an army and a fleet. The Gods themselves have sometimes ravished those they meant to possess, and love always excuses rash enterprizes, while the name of husband effaces all former injuries. Neither
shall

shall I in this advice be guilty of cruelty to my charge? Argenis wishes to be compelled, that she may keep her word with Polyarchus, to whom she has promised never voluntarily to give her faith to another. Suffer her therefore to preserve this constancy, that she may not offend the Gods, whom she called upon to witness to her contract with Polyarchus. She hath already reproached me on this head. 'Why do you tell me of the love of Radirobanes (said she) while he sits idly looking on me?' — For Meleander is averse to the marriage, and lays the refusal upon his daughter. But be not you deceived; your king will not long have an opportunity to shew his love or his courage; for soldiers are raising secretly, and when Meleander is strong enough to resist him, he will scornfully reject that alliance which he now doubtfully and fearfully avoids."

Vertiganes was amazed at the boldness of her advice. He related the whole discourse to his lord, who, as usual, departed from his lady more displeased than he came

to

to her. He was surprized at the advice of Selenissa. "Yet (said he) let it be so: Argenis shall, without any crime of her's, renounce Polyarchus, and give herself to me; for I swear by Jove, whether Selenissa be faithful or not in the advice she has given, I will prepare with all diligence to put it in execution, and not suffer myself to be despised by Meleander and Argenis. But lest that old woman should betray us, and discover the plot she is the author of, she shall not know that I will take this course till she sees it executed: if she be faithful to us, she will be glad to be taken by surprize with Argenis." — Vertiganes durst not dissuade him from this enterprize, though he saw the infamy of violating the laws of hospitality, and the personal dangers attending it; so by the fraud and treachery of Selenissa a deadly snare was set for Argenis, and so much the more miserable, since carried on as if by her own desire. Meleander's easy and unsuspecting temper was advantageous to their design; therefore Radirobanes again began to curb his

his disposition, and behave with all the appearance of friendship and moderation. He comes to visit Meleander without a guard; he goes unarmed to his feasts, and invites him by these means to put himself into his power. He also sent back his army to Sardinia, that their numbers might not create suspicion: yet his household servants, with the train of nobility, and the guard of his person, were above six hundred men, besides the rowers and sailors of five galleys, which he had selected out of his whole navy. Radirobanes thinking these forces sufficient for the execution of his project, considered on the safest means of seizing on his prey. Having revolved many schemes in his mind, at length he pitched upon the following one: When his admiral galley entered the haven of Eipercté, the rashness of the pilot struck her side against a rock he was not aware of: but she was raised again by the tide, and by the help of poles, bars and cables from other ships, freed from the danger, and brought to an anchor near the shore, where she was afterwards

wards raised and put on the stocks, and being supported on both sides, the shipwrights thoroughly repaired her. But he was not contented with barely repairing her, but (as is the fate of many houses and cities) would have her rise out of her ruins with more beauty and strength than before. Melcander had a beautiful galley, built after an excellent model of Corcyra: Radirobanes commanded his shipwrights to take that for their pattern, and almost new-build and ornament his own in the same manner. Melcander went often with Radirobanes to visit the work; he therefore laid this plan for his intended treachery. This galley being finished, he dedicated it to Argenis; her image was placed in the prow, and her picture in many parts of the vessel. The birth-day of Argenis was near at hand, which Radirobanes declared should be also the second birth-day of his galley.—On that day, therefore, he invited Melcander and his daughter to an entertainment in his pavilion by the sea-side; and detaining them till the evening,

evening, the galley dedicated to the name of Argenis was then to be launched, with sound of trumpets and other martial music: at night there were to be grand fire-works.

—During the time of this shew, while the Sicilians, attentive to the spectacle, were disarmed and unsuspicious, he determined to seize on Argenis and Meleander, and carry them forcibly on board his ship. And that by continual feasting and jollity he might divert the attention of all men from care and suspicion, he determined to honour the vigil of Argenis's birth day with a masque. For this purpose he selected eleven young men of his nobility to perform with himself. The subject he chose for the masque, was the fable of the three Gods expelling their father Saturn, and dividing their inheritance by lot, when the heavens fell to the share of Jupiter, the seas under the dominion of Neptune, and the gloomy Pluto was sent down to govern the more populous regions below.

*A discourse of judges, counsellors and lawyers,
and the means of abridging the tedious
delays of law-suits.*

MELEANDER gratefully accepted these magnificent sports, prepared by Radirobanes in honour of the day: he also determined at that solemnity to grant the petitions of the Syracusans and other cities in honour of Argenis. The principal requests were these: That it should not be lawful for the collectors of taxes and subsidies to exact any thing of those who, without their own fault, or through unavoidable misfortunes, had fallen into poverty, especially if they were useful in husbandry; and that none of the poorer sort of mechanic or handicraft trades should imitate the richer sort in idleness, by leaving their work, neglecting their trades, and walking about in improper habits and with swords by their sides, as if they were soldiers.

But

But all such as were known to have no visible and honest means of subsistence, should make choice of a trade to work at, or else be obliged to labour in the common workhouses for the benefit of their country; for such people languishing in peace through pride and indolence, either committed secret villanies, or else lie in wait for tumults and seditions to relieve their poverty by the miseries of their country. They also petitioned, that no collectors of tributes should be allowed to come into private men's houses, nor send their officers to distress or trouble the townsmen; but that this should be committed to their fellow citizens, who should chuse out of their own company such men as might collect these duties in the most gentle and the least oppressive manner. That every town should bring the money thus collected to the mayor, by whom it should be paid to the governor of the province, or, if the king pleased, brought into the treasury at Syracuse. That if any private person should neglect or refuse to pay, it were better he

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should

should be compelled by his own citizens and the magistrates, than by the insolence of the collectors and their officers, who often sell their forbearance to the poor and needy, and never spoil and oppress more than in the houses of distressed people, gaining a booty for themselves by oppressing those who have hardly sufficient to pay the ordinary taxes. The king taking pity on his people, commanded Cleobulus to draw up such edicts as should free them in future from these inconveniences.

But there appeared more difficulty in answering the requests of the same deputies, that there might be some provision made against the mischiefs, which by the multitude of law-suits, the delays of judges, and the corruption of lawyers, had almost ruined both town and country. Ibburanes, who was in high esteem with the king, both for his own worth and recommendation of Argenis, used at this time to be very much at court. The Syracusans therefore addressed themselves to him, and requested him to be their patron and protector. They desired him

him to present to the king the reasonable wishes and prayers of the Sicilians, and by his persuasions move the king, who was inclined of himself to be gracious, to redress the grievances of his people. Ibburanes, besides his other virtues, was of so open and generous a nature, that if any requested his favour and assistance, they might almost think he received a benefit whenever he conferred one. He therefore often recommended the Syracusans to the king, and especially concerning these abuses in the courts of justice, and at this time he spoke to this effect: "Do not think, Sire, these things to be trifles, of which the Syracusans desire to be eased. I do not know whether the civil dissensions, which are lately quieted, did more cruelly afflict this land. These solicitors, these counsellors, these clerks, (the judges I dare not name, because they are of your own appointing) I say, these lawyers so abound among us, that I question whether the tradesmen, the husbandmen, or the soldiers that defend us, are so many. From whence have these numbers their

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support,

support, but from the wrongs of the people, from the misery and ruin of unhappy men. If there were fewer belonging to the law, and none were allowed to practise, but men of approved ability and integrity, many of those who get their living by mischievous ingenuity, would apply themselves to more beneficial studies, and become ornaments to their country. They would either find out new arts and sciences, or adorn and polish the old; so that this plague is not only to be execrated for the mischiefs it brings upon us, but also for the benefits of which it deprives us.

But perhaps, Sire, you will excuse the multitude of lawyers by the number of litigious people, for whom all the courts in the land are not sufficient in regard to dispatching all their suits?—Suffer me to tell you the truth: it is the multitude of lawyers that is the cause why suits are multiplied, and are so long undetermined. And if you should erect new courts of justice, there will be found some desirous to be stretched upon a new rack; but if you lessen the
number

number of them, a part of these contentions will abate, and the malady will become less violent if you take away the quack medicine. The true cause of this evil is, that the judges, (lest the decay of business in their courts, besides their gains, should abate the respect that is paid to their dignity) always find some whom by the rigour of the law they may hold in subjection to their authority; neither are there wanting pettifoggers, and a yet worse kind of men than they, who are skilled in all the forms and rules of wrangling, who make it their business to breed doubts and differences between men, or else pick quarrels themselves with those who are ignorant in this vile practice. One of your provinces was formerly free from these men, who glory in their skill in controversies. Every town was happy and quiet, and if any dispute arose between the neighbours, a plain and simple rule of equity settled it by arbitration; till they at length, ignorant of their happiness, suffered one of these men to settle among them, and immediately contentions were set on foot,

suits were begun, that lasted an age afterwards. So those who are trained up in the law more often raise controversies, than put an end to them. But though they are too many and contagious to all that approach them, if they were contented with a short correction, it were supportable; but these law-suits are perpetual: and, if men would but cast up the reckoning of their troubles and charges, they would find it worse to gain their cause at last, than to lose it at first; and this requires your especial care and attention to remedy. Cut off these delays at once, and appoint a limited time, beyond which it shall not be lawful for any suits to continue. For these law-tricks, and the names of them, are not to be circumscribed by number or measure, with which both the judges and the lawyers delude and ruin their wretched clients. Thus do they slowly, and joint by joint, tear in pieces those, whom they might as well destroy at once.

I will not descend to such minute particulars, as to take notice of every kind of injury

injury they do to individuals, for those who desire you to reform these abuses, should give you a list of them. The best way is to point out remedies for these mischiefs, and perhaps you cannot make a better beginning, than by this ordinance: That the parties themselves shall appear before the judges, that their business may not wholly depend upon the fidelity of their attornies, for by their simplicity or craftiness the judge may discern the right of the cause more clearly than through the false varnish of cunning eloquence. Neither let them be tied to the punctilios of the law; let them decide according to right and equity. But if any more intricate business be brought before them, which requires witnesses, view of evidence, and the determination of the law, then let the advocates take the oath they formerly did, that they will plead no cause which they know to be unjust: and if it shall appear, that they have broken their oath, or wronged their client by any collusion in pleading, besides the infamy attending it, let there be such a

punishment laid upon them, as shall deter others from daring to do the like, more than the fear of all the Gods.

It were also proper to be enacted, that the lawyers should take no fees of their clients before the suit be determined; and also, that he who is cast, shall pay little or nothing to his lawyer; and at the beginning of a suit, let there be security given for that little payment, that he may not be forced to sue for his own fee. But he who gains his suit shall reward his lawyer in the most ample manner; and let there be a great penalty on such as give any thing while the suit is depending.—If any client be detected in this kind of bribery, let him forfeit his cause; if any lawyer in taking it, let him be thrown over the bar. By these means you shall make the lawyers hate delays, and being desirous of bringing their business to an end, they shall labour for themselves, and benefit their clients at the same time.

But all this will avail nothing, unless you limit the time. You must make a law, that no cause shall be longer depending in
any

any court than six months, unless the witnesses are to be sent for from distant provinces, in which case the time should be doubled. I know, that those who find their account in delays, will not bear to hear of this regulation; they will say it is impossible, that such a multitude of causes can be decided in half a year. I would therefore ask them, whether the number of suits increase yearly, or whether they would first finish the old ones?—If they continually increase, what must, in the end, become of them?—Out of what door shall we send the increase of so many years?—They must either be thrown out, or be decided in the lump; not by justice, but by chance. But if they will determine us as many old causes as there are new ones coming forward, we demand no more, we are agreed as to the number; it is sufficient to finish as many old causes as the year brings new ones. But if they object the difficulties of searching out the truth, which in many cases require more than a year, this excuse shall not serve them. You complain, that

these causes are intricate; it is you yourselves—the judges, that have made them so.—Look back upon your ancestors; they decided the causes that came before them in much less time than we allow you; yet you will not deny them to have been most just; by whom, for the most part, those laws were made that we now observe and reverence. In latter times, under the shadow of equity, they have found out so many inventions for the benefit of the defendants, that the simplicity of the laws is destroyed by them. Thus, what might quickly be determined, is, by non-suits, references, and such devices, deferred to a longer time: and this not so much for the good of the defendant, as for the advantage of the judges and lawyers; as if the people were made for the laws, instead of the laws for them. Cut off these unnecessary delays by your limited time, for there can be no cause that the diligent study of six months will not search to the bottom. Neither let too great scrupulousness occasion your delay; judge as your conscience shall direct you.

It

It often happens, that after a series of years, you judge doubtfully or unjustly, for truth is to be searched out not so much by time as by diligence."

Here Meleander took him by the hand, and, with a smiling countenance, said, "Whither, reverend priest, doth this warmth transport you, that thus you speak to men who are absent?—unless, perhaps, you reckon me among the judges, and while you blame them, mean to admonish me.—For I hear, indeed, that those who have business at court complain of the slowness of our proceedings." Ibburanes excused the earnestness of his speaking, as being animated by his zeal for the good of the public. "But (said he) the judges will excuse themselves, and lay the fault upon the lawyers. Could they offend in this point, unless the judges winked at it?—Those desire the delay, and these give way to it. Which are most to be blamed?—Truly, I think, those who could hinder these abuses, and do not.—The lawyers durst not use these tergiversations, and stand upon

upon trivial points, if they did not know it to be a common practice, and allowed by the judges. Let the judge deny any farther respite; let him include all points of law within six months; let him reckon those who are unprepared for this, as convicted; then will the lawyers avoid all fraudulent delay, and not suffer their clients to be the sufferers by it any longer.

But if the judges will not be convinced; if they exclaim against me; if they boast of their labours, integrity, and learning, and complain of the unreasonable restraint of six months, I will shew my regard for them, by desiring you to ease them of this burthen. Command them to distribute some part of this weight of business among such learned counsellors as are sufficient for this purpose: there are many able men who might assist them, and let them decree of themselves, or with others; it will be for the public good, if they keep not the client in suspense beyond the limited time.

But if you believe me, Sir, the judges, in this case, will recover their strength to

go through the fatigues of the business, rather than suffer the stream of power and profit to flow into another channel. Impose more business upon them, and those who were lately so weary, will discharge it without any coadjutors, especially if a penalty be inflicted on the breakers of this law, concerning the limited term.

But you will ask, perhaps, what shall become of the old suits that have been so long depending?—This year of grace will not be sufficient for them?—For this purpose, let commissioners be appointed to assist the judges, though against their wills. Their commission shall not exceed six months; and let them clear all the courts of these causes. And the courts of justice being thus purged of all their corruptions, need not to defer above a year, henceforward, the punishment of injustice, or the satisfaction of the injured party."

Ibburanes seemed to have hit upon the right remedy for these evils, but because it is sometimes dangerous to give very strong physic to diseased bodies, the king deferred

deferred this course till the magistrates could be called together, and new laws could be enacted with unanimous consent: for it was not expedient, that the people's awful respect to the laws should be weakened; and it was to be feared, if these reformations were made too precipitately, it would have more the appearance of revenge and punishment, than of care for posterity. Meleander, however, granted the other demands of the people, and invited them to the celebration of the birth-day of Argenis. He promised them, that the abuses in the courts of justice should be hereafter reformed and regulated; and committed the charge of preparing these new laws to the care of Cleobulus.

CHAP. XXIII.

*A great number of Sicilians come to court in
honour of the birth-day of Argenis. A de-
scription of the masque. The pride and
magnificence of Radiobanes.*

AT this time not only the deputies of the cities, but a number of persons of all sorts and conditions so filled Eipercté, that Radiobanes, who sat brooding over his intended treachery, was at first afraid, lest in the midst of that confluence of Sicilians he should not be able to carry off Argenis: yet, on the other side, he considered, that in a confused and disorderly multitude Meleander's friends and assistants would be less able to come to aid him. In the mean time he spared neither costs nor pains for setting forth his intended masque; for he designed to gain himself credit by his magnificence and gallantry, and to lessen the dishonour of his intended action by previously gaining the admiration and good will

will of the people. On the eve of Argenis's birth-day, the great hall of the palace was appointed for the masque. After supper, a great number of Sicilians and Sardinians came thither. The officers and guards who were placed at the doors and passages, could not keep in order those that pressed forward, insomuch that the croud and tumult, and the noise of such as were beaten back, became a part of the spectacle. Meleander himself went to the door, finding the authority of his officers availed nothing, and intreated them not to trouble the company and spoil the shew. Archombrotus was near the king, whom he desired to let in such as he thought proper, and make use of his authority to keep out the rest. But he, pleased by any means to confound and vex Radirobanes, endeavoured to disturb the masque; and, as if unable to resist the multitude, ordered the doors to be thrown open, when they rushed in like a torrent, and the passages were so choaked up that they were not able to move either way. Meleander was very angry, but he could not

not be heard for some time, till the people at length grew ashamed of themselves, and giving way by degrees grew quiet. Eurimedes reproved them sharply; but Archombrotus rejoiced in silence, when he heard that Radirobanes was so enraged at this disorder, that, throwing aside his masquerade habit, he threatened to have the engines broken in pieces, that were contrived to introduce the Gods as coming down from the heavens. At length, by the endeavours of Eurimedes, every thing was quiet, and a place made clear for Meander and Argenis. And presently, for the prologue, four Satyrs came from behind the curtain, and having performed a dance in character, they gave papers of the subject of the masque to the king and Argenis, and scattered other copies among the people.

In the mean time the trumpets sounding before the shew, a flame like lightning broke out of the counterfeit clouds. Then the false heaven, that they had contrived in the roof, began to move, and opening
dis-

discovered an imitation of the stars by the lights placed behind them, and by their brightness set off the ornaments of gold and purple that were near them. There were three divisions in these celestial regions in the midst sat Jupiter, in the others Neptune and Pluto: about them were a number of beautiful boys, dressed like Cupids, as their attendants, with bows at their backs, and each brandished two darts in his hand. These came forward upon the stage with their lords, and ran over it in a fantastic kind of dance. Jupiter observing the music seemed to confer with his brothers, and presently, as if they could not agree in their demands, they separated into different quarters of the stage. When they had done thus twice or thrice, suddenly the Goddess Fortune appeared sitting upon a globe, and hiding in her lap the crowns and sceptres and other ensigns of the kingdoms for which the Gods disputed. She beckoned them to her; they came, guiding their steps by the music, and putting their hands into her lap; Jupiter drew the three-forked lightning

lightning of gold; Neptune the trident that commands the ocean; and Pluto, the least pleased, drew the black sceptre of hell.

Then suddenly another cloud brought down to Jupiter, as king of heaven, the most eminent of the celestial powers, Mars, Apollo, and Mercury: presently the sea began to swell with rolling waves, in which was a rock covered with sea-weeds and shells, from which Proteus, Triton, and Glaucus came to attend their master Neptune: the music in the mean time imitated the roaring of the sea. Scarcely had Neptune taken notice of them, when from another part the earth seemed to open, and gave a distant prospect of the Elysian fields, and sent up Minos, Æacus, and Radamanthus, as if astonished at the light, by whose persuasion the great Pluto accepted his infernal kingdom. The celestial deities were clothed in purple; the Gods of the ocean in sea-green; the infernals in dark mantles, awfully dreadful. Each of them had his proper ornaments: sun-beams glittered about

about Apollo's head, Mars had his warlike attributes, and his spear in his hand. Mercury was distinguished by his petasus on his head, wings on his feet, and in his hand the famous caduceus, whose power causes sleep. Triton had a crooked trumpet by his side. Proteus had a double face, that shewed his disposition to change. Glaucus had such a beard as he wore when he met with the wondrous herb near Anthedon. Minos on his garment had embroidered a hundred cities. Æacus's robe was covered with an oak, and pismires creeping round it. Radamanthus carried the chimæra of his Lycia; while Bellerophon, mounted upon Pegasus, and taught by Minerva to manage him, destroyed the hideous monster. Every one in these habits danced suitable to their characters; the heavenly deities more gracefully; the Sea-gods more rudely; the infernals with frowning countenances, and looks of anger and scorn: yet the motions of these different Gods, so unlike in character, were governed by the same concert of music; and they danced

danced in various figures, according to the direction of the Instruments. When these figures were all ended, Radiobanes, who wore the habit of Jupiter, came and offered his hand to Argenis, and she accepting his invitation with a graceful majesty, came forward upon the stage, and danced with him. Then the chief ladies and their attendants also danced; and afterwards the twelve Gods, with a new measure, concluded the masque, and they made their exit different ways. Jupiter and his attendants returned into heaven by the same machine in which they descended; Neptune and his followers into the sea; and Pluto, attended by torches, seemed to descend to his infernal dominions. After this a shower of sweet waters dropped from the artificial clouds, which sprinkled all the spectators. Most of the company admired the invention and execution of this superb and princely entertainment: some praised the magnificence of Radiobanes; others his gallantry: and all went away satisfied. But he, full of his intended villany, could take

take no rest that night. Early in the morning he went down to the harbour to see his galley, to the launching of which he had invited Meleander and Argenis. Then he went to see the place where the feast was to be prepared. They had erected large tents for the occasion, and covered the flooring with carpets. They were ornamented after a rural manner, with ivy and other greens; and many garlands, with the name of Argenis interwoven. Over the seat where the lady was to sit, was a canopy adorned with laurel, under which were the following verses written.

O maid, to whom in beauty's bloom would yield
Venus herself, and Juno quit the field;
And she whose helm the olive wreath doth grace,
Deign to approach, and dignify this place.
Give lustre to this seat, as Cynthia bright
Receives from Phœbus' rays reflected light.
Thus when the sword of war its rage doth cease,
And altars smoke with sacrifice for peace,
Pallas lays by her frowns, grants all requests,
And graciously partakes her suppliants' feasts.
Oh come, and from the shore enflame with love
The sea-green Gods!--Pleas'd Neptune mounts above
His curling waves, but, wounded by thy fight,
He sighs, and thinks not Thetis half so bright.

CHAP. XXIV.

The preparations of the king of Sardinia, to carry away Meleander and Argemis. His contrivance to detain them. Archombrotus discovers the treason.

MELEANDER, that morning, after he had sacrificed to the Gods, called for the deputies of the cities, and shewed them in how many things he had complied with their requests. He commanded the edicts, which Cleobulus had drawn up, to be set up in the market-place, and sent to all parts of the kingdom. He also promised them that the reformatations in all the courts of justice should in due time be put in execution: which things being presently divulged, the people were overjoyed, both on this account, and for the festival of the day: and they followed the princes to the tents of Radirobanes with loud shouts and incessant acclamations.

But Radirobanes, when he saw Argemis coming as a certain prey into his snare, was

filled with a joy of a different kind than they supposed. He caused dinner to be served up in a most solemn and courtly manner, and it was near evening before they rose from dinner to see the galley launched. The trumpets and cornets resounded every where along the shore. From the top of the ship-masts hung streams of ribband of various colours, carried about with every breath of wind. The deck was filled with sailors and soldiers as if the ship had been under sail for a sea-fight or triumph. The boats and the shore were filled with people, who made repeated shoutings as often as the trumpets gave notice that the ship advanced forward.

It was ordered on purpose to be very late before the galley was launched; but Radirobanes held Melcander in expectation of his fire-works, which were to be played off from three boats on the water. The spectators were allured by the novelty of the invention, which few of them had ever heard of before. With this lure he brought Melcander and Argenis back to his pavilion,

and

and kept them in discourse about what they were to see. While he was talking, the execution of his treacherous design obliged him frequently to withdraw to give orders to Vertiganes, and the rest that were in the secret; lest by delay, or precipitation, his hope should be frustrated. There were and hundred lamps placed about the tent where the kings were to sit to behold the sight: these, upon a signal given, were all to be extinguished, and immediately Meleander and Argenis were to be seized, and carried into a boat. The noblemen and soldiers of Sardinia were ordered to come a few at a time to the shore. Most of them were ignorant of the plot, but they were ordered to execute whatever Vertiganes should direct: he, though unwillingly, had the charge of this desperate enterprize, with two other noblemen.

It was almost beyond belief, that Sicily should be preserved from such near impending ruin, but such are the powerful works of providence, that a sudden disappointment should overtake the wicked, when

they think themselves most secure of success, to the end that wickedness should never be free from fear, nor virtue in the greatest danger without hope. It happened that Archombrotus, while others were attentive to the launching of the galley, disdainingly to cast his eyes upon that sight, was walking not far off upon the sand. He understood the Sardinian language, though he dissimulated the knowledge of it. A soldier of Radirobanes's guard, but just parted from Vertiganes, met one of his comrades unarmed. "Is it lawful, said he, for you alone, fellow-soldier, to be here this day without your arms?—The other denied that he had received any command to be armed; and meeting two others, they were presently out of the hearing of Archombrotus. Wondering to what end the Sardinians should be armed upon a day of festivity, he observed the habit of all that passed by, and found not one without arms. Besides their swords, some had spears, others a javelin, and many bore darts after the Italian manner. These things bred

bred suspicions in Archombrotus, of himself inclined to think ill of the Sardinians. Neither was it without the appointment of the Gods, that he should harbour more fear than so slight a presumption could warrant: for that soldiers should be armed, might have escaped the notice and examination of one less curious. But he, instigated by love of Argenis, and hatred of Radirobanes, did not let this matter rest. "What, said he, does this often rejected lover meditate force at last?—Do they design to carry off Melcander as well as Argenis?—Why are they so artfully drawn down to the sea-side?—And why are they persuaded to stay till night?"—Struck with apprehension at these conjectures, he thought there could be no better means to discover this conspiracy than by Vertiganes's brother, who had been sick for several days. If the Sardinians had any treacherous design in hand, it was not likely they should leave him in the town, and betray him into the hands of his enemies. He went therefore with all haste to Eipercté, and going to the

quarter appointed for the strangers, he opportunely met a servant of Radirobanes, who had the care of the king's bed-chamber. He was locking the door, and upon the point of departing, but Archombrotus interrupted him, and desired leave to look at something in the chamber. The man respecting the person of Archombrotus, and ignorant of his prince's design, scrupled not to open the door. Archombrotus remembered, that when he twice accompanied Meleander to Radirobanes, he saw upon a table by his bed-side a cabinet of curious workmanship, made of ebony and ivory, and inlaid with silver; in it he heard that he kept his richest jewels, and most private letters: he cast his eyes upon the empty table, and looked in vain for the cabinet all over the chamber. In order to deceive the servant he took notice of two pictures, both highly esteemed by Radirobanes. In one of them an eagle stooping, as it seemed, from the skies, set a crown upon the head of Radirobanes: the other was Apollo revenging himself upon Marfyas. He
seemed

seemed to examine these curiously, as if he came on purpose to see them; but he took notice that nothing of consequence was taken out of the chamber, but only this valuable cabinet.

This observation strengthening his suspicions he came away, and went to the lodging of Vertiganes, where he found none to let him in; and the solitude sufficiently assured him that the sick brother was carried away. Archombrotus feared, lest the night and their treason should prevent him, while he was searching into the bottom of the design with the most curious diligence. He therefore called two captains that were on guard at the castle, and pretending that he was sent by Meleander, "Go, said he, to your soldiers, and presently bring them down privately, and without noise, to the sea-side: let them be drawn up in companies near the tent of Radiobanes. A sword and javelin will be sufficient for them, lest if they be more armed they should give occasion for observation. I will be upon

the shore, and will bring you the king's commands; but go directly, and by your diligence shew your duty and affection to the king."

cover the treason to the king. He then
feigns herself sick, and insists on return-
ing to Epidaurus. Radonchides endeavours
to stop her, but his surprise is
discovered.

WHILE the officers were gone
about this business, Archonchides
returned to the shore, where, not far from
Radonchides's tent, he met Eurimachus, to
whom he spoke with a disordered look,
saying, "I fear greatly that our fortune
hath thrown us upon a second Lycogenes."
Then he told him briefly all the signs
that he had observed of the treacherous
design; that the cabinet of jewels was
taken away; that the brother of Verri-
ganes, though sick, was removed from his
lodging, and that all the Sardians were
in arms. Eurimachus could hardly hear
him out before he answered, That he was

glad

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CHAP. XXV.

Archombrotus consults Eurimedes. They discover the treason to the king. Argenis feigns herself sick, and insists on returning to Eiperété. Radiobanes endeavours to stop Argenis; but his enterprize is frustrated.

WHILE the officers were gone about this business, Archombrotus returned to the shore, where, not far from Radiobanes's tent, he met Eurimedes, to whom he spoke with a disordered look, saying, "I fear greatly that our fortune hath thrown us upon a second Lycogenes." — Then he told him briefly all the signs that he had observed of the treacherous design; that the cabinet of jewels was taken away; that the brother of Vertiganes, though sick, was removed from his lodging; and that all the Sardinians were in arms. Eurimedes could hardly hear him out before he answered, That he was

glad to find him of the same opinion with himself; that he had for some time harboured suspicions of the same kind; that he had observed the Sardinians flocking about the tent, as if on some design; but from what Archombrotus said, he had no doubt of their villainous intention. "What Perithous have we here? said he — what Theseus hath emboldened him to this enterprize, to accomplish his marriage by force? — But we must use artifice that the king may suffer himself to be delivered from his danger; for he is as cautious of offending Radiobanes, as he is careless of himself. Go you, therefore, first to him, Archombrotus; and when you have awakened him with the greatness of the danger, I will second you, and strengthen the evidence of it. In the mean time, I will bring together the soldiers that should be upon guard to-night, and place them so as to be near at hand in case we should have occasion for them."

It happened fortunately, that when Archombrotus came into the tent, Radiobanes

was

was speaking to Argenis, and Meleander disengaged, to whom he spoke in a low voice, saying, "I put on a countenance quite foreign to the news I have to impart, that these paricides may not think I come to warn you of your danger. O my lord, this pomp is prepared for the sacrifice of yourself and of your daughter.—Radiobanes designs to seize on you both, and carry you away.—For this purpose the show they have promised you is deferred till it is late, that the night may increase your confusion, and cover their treachery." While he was giving reasons for these apprehensions, Eurimedes came in and confirmed what he had said, and filled the king with fear and astonishment. He asked, what advice could they give on so sudden an emergency?—They agreed that he must either presently return to the city, or stay there under the guard of his own soldiers; but they thought it the best course to escape to Eipercté, for so many soldiers could not be drawn together without suspicion, so that they might seem rather

to offer an injury than prevent one; and besides, why should Meleander put himself into danger? or why Argenis?—And perhaps, the Sardinians had contrived their treason to be executed by some stratagem in the night, and a tumultuous opposition would be of no service. “I will go quietly out of the tent, said Meleander, as if to walk, and persuade Radirobanes and Argenis to follow me. Eurimedes shall advise her, as soon as we are got among our own people, to feign herself sick: this will be a good excuse for her departure, and I, as being concerned for her disorder, will follow her.”

When he had taken this resolution, he suddenly turned to Radirobanes, “We lose, said he, a most charming evening; now the sun declines, the air is pleasant, and we shall have sitting enough when the fire-works are to be seen.” With this he arose and went out of the tent, and all the company followed him. Meleander entered into discourse with Radirobanes, that Eurimedes might signify his intentions to Argenis.

Argenis. She was already confounded with sudden apprehension; and though Vertiganes prevented Eurimedes from explaining the ground of their suspicions, her fearful agitations were not far from the truth.

In the mean time, Archombrotus, wherever he met any of the Sicilians, desired them not to go far from the king; and by this time the soldiers ordered by himself and Eurimedes, were advancing in small companies, and scattered about the fields; when Argenis leaned upon Selenissa, and with a faint voice said, "I am taken very ill, mother." Radirobanes, amazed at the sudden accident, called for wine, water, and perfumes with the greatest earnestness. Presently a number of people gathered about her. Meleander, who was a little before, turned back, seeming affrighted at her indisposition; but Argenis called for her litter, that she might be carried to the town. Being asked what was her disorder, she said she was sick at the heart; her head was giddy, and her eye-sight failed

failed her. — But Radiobanes cried out, there was no need of the litter; she might sooner be carried back to his tent. Meleander excused her, saying, it was better for her to return to the town, both for quiet and assistance; and called for the litter to be hastened, giving thanks to Radiobanes for his excessive kindness in wishing to take upon himself the trouble of another's sickness. But Radiobanes, not careful for Argenis only, but for the success of his enterprize, refused to suffer the lady to be carried a whole mile to Eipercté in the first fit of her sickness, and still insisted upon her being carried back to his pavilion.

All these disputes passed as in reciprocal love and kindness, till Vertiganes privately told Radiobanes, that since the success of his enterprize was not so limited to that day, but that it might be executed on another, he had better suffer Argenis to depart, and attend her himself to Eipercté, deferring the shew of his fire-works till she recovered; and her father, with the same unsuspicious simplicity, would again put her

her and himself into his power. He had almost persuaded him, when Radirobanes's physician came to the assistance of Argenis, who feeling her pulse, and observing her eyes and her manner of breathing, first began to wonder, and then to deny that he found in her any signs of sickness at all. Turning therefore to Meleander, with an honest plainness he desired him to lay aside his apprehensions; for whatever ailed her, it was of no consequence at all. But Radirobanes was struck with a sad conjecture, and perceived that she feigned sickness only to colour her escape. Wondering who had discovered his plot, he fell into a violent passion, and looking about for his people, he laid his hand upon his sword; when he perceived that there were fewer Sardinians than Sicilians about him, and that if he came to blows, he could not promise himself the victory.

In the mean time Meleander's physician also came, who, being previously instructed by Eurimedes, gave a different judgment of Argenis's sickness than the other had done.

done. He said that it was a dangerous disorder, and might be of long continuance; that she should be carried home directly, for all delay was of bad consequence to her. The first physician was offended that his skill was despised, and began a dispute with him. What signs of sickness did he see in the lady?—in her countenance—in her pulse—in the colour of her lips?—The Sicilian maintained his opinion no less warmly, and certainly there had been an excellent lecture on the uncertainty of the science of medicine, if the importance of the business could have left any room for such reflections.

But while these two were wrangling, the litter was brought, and Argenis got into it. Radirobanes striving with his last endeavours to prevent her return, lost all temper. He laid his hands upon the litter, and now more than intreated Argenis to stay. The contention also began between the Sicilians and Sardinians, and Archombrotus was going by force to free the litter which Radirobanes stopped; but Meleander

ander threw himself between them.—Let Sicily sacrifice to the Gods for the fortune of that day! —How much noble blood was ready to be spilt in that contest! —An earthquake ready to swallow Sicily, and destroy Polyarchus, though absent! But the prudence of Meleander brought this business to a more quiet conclusion. The king of Sardinia was ashamed to offer violence to Meleander while speaking kindly to him as his guest and friend; so the tumult being in some measure quieted, and Argenis gone, Meleander, surrounded with troops of his own soldiers, returned in safety to Eipercté.

BOOK IV. CHAP. I.

Radirobanes writes an angry letter to Meleander, and discovers the secret intercourse between Argenis and Polyarchus.

IN the mean time Radirobanes, desperate and enraged, walked to and fro upon the shore, distracted with diversity of thoughts, and none of the Sardinians durst speak to him. Sometimes he was disturbed with the thoughts of the shame, sometimes for the ill success of his enterprize. How fair and promising was the beginning! how long were Meleander and Argenis in his power!—Was it his evil genius, or some mortal, that discovered his plot and baffled his design?—Must he then undergo the shame and dishonour without the reward of his undertaking? After having been called the deliverer of Sicily, he had stained the glory of his victory, and must now depart as an enemy and a robber. Gnashing his teeth at those reflexions, he walked along with a quick-

a quickened pace, with his mind so unsettled, that he never perceived that night came on. At length Vertiganes took courage to approach him, appearing to be in the same temper of mind, that he might gain audience from his angry master; and when by his art he had obtained his attention, "It is night, Sire, said he, —yet you still remain here, too confident in your own valour. Here are many that observe you, and it is not necessary that all men should know the perplexity of your mind. But whither do you intend to retire this night? —Meleander invites you to town, but can you with safety trust to a reconciliation with him? —I hope we are more dear to you than for you to distract us with apprehensions of your danger. —Your own navy will be the safest place for you. —Detest this land, Sire, which has been the cause of so much grief to you. —When you shall be safe on board your Admiral-galley, and in private with your friends, then you may give vent to your indignation freely, and resolve on what is best to be done."

Radiro-

Radirobanes, with a countenance unmoved, as if he had not heard Vertiganes, went into the boat that waited for him, not speaking a word till he came on board his galley. But when he was in his cabin with only three of his nobles, and began to recover from the black mists that obscured and confused his mind, he first tore from his neck the picture of Argenis, for all other passions had now given place to anger and hatred. Then looking upon Vertiganes, “I will make this a more unfortunate day to Meleander than to me, said he.—I will make him hate Argenis still worse than he does me.—I will execute the office of the furies, ruin the peace of the father, and the character of the daughter; then will I at leisure enjoy my vengeance, and take pleasure in the miseries of my enemies.—Or, if it shall suit my convenience, I will make war upon them besides.—Bring me my tablets; I will write to them.” So saying, he immediately wrote a letter to this effect:

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RADIOBANES TO MELEANDER.

WHEN I opposed your enemies, I knew not that you were unworthy of a friend; I ought therefore to ask pardon of the Sicilians, who would have been freed from your tyranny, if I had not subdued them, and restored them to your power and cruelty. If the sight of me was grown irksome to you, by whose means you are yet a king, you might have parted with me in a more honourable manner, than to brand my name with infamy; for you made it appear to all men, that you feared me as an enemy and betrayer, when Argenis feigned herself sick, and you withdrew hastily from my pavilion; so by the suspicion of an injury, you endeavoured to cancel your obligations to me; as if I designed by force to make Argenis my wife, who refused the honour I once indeed intended her. But mankind will not be so deceived; for was I likely to wrong you, who hazarded my life to defend you from injury? — But be not you henceforward so proud of your Argenis; for know, that the royal blood

blood of Sardinia cannot bear a dishonourable marriage. With what eyes should I see her lifted over my threshold, who is unworthy of the nuptial girdle, the maiden garland, or any other sign of virginity, having long lived in indecent familiarity with a private man, one Polyarchus?—

Do my words surprize you?—are you confounded at the shameful story?—you, that are so much afraid of your friends, learn of whom you should have been afraid!—That Theocrine, whom your credulity thought to be Pallas, was the polluter of your house; or, to speak still more plainly, it was Polyarchus, who under that name deceived you. By the contrivance of Argenis he was first admitted into the castle as a virgin, and afterwards into the temple as a Goddess. Can you believe her chaste, who concealed a man in that castle dedicated to women only, who so long conversed with her lover, and who finally deceived her father?—Forbear your base suspicions of me, unworthy of my spirit and dignity, as if I, knowing this, should

should continue to desire her in marriage. I confess, when I first came hither, before I knew of this blemish in her character, I desired her for my wife: but the Gods were more gracious to Sardinia, and you neglected the opportunity to have made me your son-in-law; and when I knew the story, I kept it to myself, and did not expose her to shame. — Enjoy your daughter, and your kingdom restored by my hand; but that your ingratitude may not be rewarded, nor you make a scoff of my easiness of temper, repay me a part of the expences I have borne in this expedition. It hath cost me — besides the blood of my subjects, I will not speak of my own labours, because I am not used to sell my friendship; but it is not reasonable, that the treasury of Sardinia should suffer for you. I am contented to value my expences at three hundred talents. How much more I have spent, you may learn from my treasurer; but pay me this trifling sum, unless you had rather I should take it by force. To renounce your
friendship

friendship were superfluous; you did it first by the wrong you have done me; but by what I have told you, you may judge of my honour and fidelity, for till I was compelled to do myself justice, I did not desire to make you miserable; but, as long as I could possibly, I suffered you to think well of your Argenis.—Farewel.

A

providing of his intended mischief, he called some of his most trusty friends, and showed them almost forgetting his own part in the hope of making others unhappy. They were astonished at the cunning of the contrivance, and in their hearts shuddered at the baseness of it. But such is the wickedness of a state of slavery, they praised that openly which inwardly they detested. It was the danger of a should carry his letter to Michael, and he felt a dangerous insult, and might be fatal to him who should undertake it. But Robanes, who made his appearance of the day of his journey, let it not be known that he was in danger, and he would go without fear, thinking no harm to be done.

Vol. III.

CHAP. II.

A herald sent from Radiobanes to Meleander.

The king reads the letter to Argenis. She sends for Selenissa, and justifies herself to Selenissa's confusion.

AS soon as he had written this letter, proud of his intended mischief, he called some of his most trusty friends, and shewed it them, almost forgetting his own pain in the hope of making others unhappy. They were astonished at the cunning of the contrivance, and in their hearts shuddered at the baseness of it; but such is the wretchedness of a state of slavery, they praised that openly which inwardly they detested. It was then debated who should carry this letter to Meleander, for it seemed a dangerous insult, and might be fatal to him who should undertake it. But Radiobanes, who made little account of the lives of his servants, "Let not the messenger know his danger, said he,—he will go without fear, thinking my name to be his

security. — And if Meleander should vent his anger upon him, it will be an advantage to me to gain a pretence to break openly with him.” When they had resolved on this, a certain soldier, to whom Vertiganes had a private hatred, was appointed to this insidious office: he thought himself happy in this preferment, being by his malicious enemy recommended to the king. They dressed him in the habit of a herald, and sent him early in the morning in a small boat to the harbour. Word was presently carried to Meleander, that a herald was arrived from Radiobanes. He, troubled in mind for the breach between himself and his guest, had already sent for his counsellors, to advise with them on the occasion. Besides his gentleness, which was almost a vice in him, the benefits he had received from Radiobanes had such power over him, that he was in effect more careful for him than for himself. “It is doubtful, said he, whether he meant to do me an injury; but it is certain, that I fled from him as from a betrayer and an enemy. By
some

some means or other, we must be reconciled to him; for, if he does us no other harm, he will raise a bad report of us, and we can never be justified to the world for expelling him, whom in the time of danger we received as a blessing from the Gods."

After the king had spoken, they were all for some time silent, for this sollicitude of Meleander was by no means pleasing to any of them. Archombrotus and Eurimedes thought themselves reproved, because they warned the king to escape from Radirobanes; they therefore began to answer this indirect rebuke; and the youthful warmth of Archombrotus made him break forth into these words: "I perceive, Sir, said he, that Radirobanes and myself cannot both be excused:—if I have drawn you into an unjust quarrel, I ought to be punished; but if by my care and Eurimedes's foresight you are freed from an imminent danger, let not your irresolution disturb the joy of this happy day, as if you doubted, whether to offend Radirobanes, or suffer Argenis to be his prisoner."

This freedom of Archombrotus was most pleasing to all that were present, especially to Argenis, who reckoned it a gain to her, if by any means Sicily were at variance with Radiobanes. The king excused his apprehensions to Archombrotus, saying, he was fearful of the people's opinion, and that he thought himself obliged to guard against the ill impression that Radiobanes might make upon their minds by his misrepresentation. "I will therefore, said he, send a messenger to him, telling him, I am sorry he chose rather to retire to his fleet than to return with me to his old apartment, and intreat him to come back into the port. I will likewise send provisions of all sorts in boats to his people, and make presents to all his friends and favourites; so that no man shall think me ungrateful to a guest whom I pay these respects to."

This determination pleased them better than the other, and the king had named Timonides for this message, when the arrival of the herald from Radiobanes suspended their thoughts with various expectations.

The

The king commanded him to be brought in, and when he delivered the letter, enquired kindly, as usual, after the health of his guest Radiobanes. — The herald made answer, as he was commanded, That the letter would fully inform him of every thing. He then withdrew to the other side of the room; and Meleander, suspecting something disagreeable, went into the next apartment, that the herald might not observe his emotions whilst he was reading it. Thither he was followed by Argenis and his most intimate friends. After he opened it, he seemed struck at every word; but when he came to that part of the letter that wounded the honour of Argenis and Polyarchus, instantly his face seemed all on fire; and again turning pale, his hands and his whole body trembled: then recovering strength, he was inflamed with anger, though as yet uncertain on whom to vent it. Argenis, Polyarchus, and Radiobanes were presented by turns to his enraged mind, but without any certain direction of his judgment.

No man durst ask a question of a prince that was under such violent perturbations; but he, endeavouring to suppress all signs of disquiet, went hastily into another room, and bade Argenis follow him, to whom he said nothing more than, "Read that letter!" — Then he sat down upon a couch, and diligently observing her countenance, he heard many deep and heavy sighs. — Argenis started as she read, but not as frightened at a true accusation; her eyes sparkled with rage, and her whole countenance shewed impatience of the injury. It struck her with extreme grief, that her intimacy with Polyarchus should be in that manner discovered, and she feared her father would think the worse of her, for having so long concealed it from him. While she was considering by what means such a secret should be betrayed, Selenissa's familiarity with the king of Sardinia came to her remembrance; but she could not long deliberate or be silent; therefore, falling down on her knees, with a voice interrupted with frequent sighs, she thus spoke: "Do
not

not expect, my lord, that I shall be over solicitous to clear myself of this false and malicious accusation.--I will not give so much satisfaction to my bitterest enemy.-- He shall not think I want any other means to defend my chastity, than having hitherto approved my conduct to you, the best and wisest of parents.--I have only one thing to ask your pardon for, that I have been more faithful to Polyarchus than you would have wished me, when he intreated me by the services he had done for us both, that you might not know that he was the author of our preservation; but now that I am compelled by the discovery of another, I may do Polyarchus the justice he deserves. It was he, my lord, who, desirous of my company, under the name of Theocrine, and the habit of a woman, gained admittance into the castle. But the fault his boldness committed, was rectified by his modesty and prudence; for, if you will believe me rather than Radirobanes, we knew him not to be a man, till by his valour he performed such actions as your-

self thought worthy of being ascribed to a deity. But then, when he was going to quit the castle, he discovered himself to me and Seleniffa, upon condition that we would conceal both his boldness and his virtue. Afterwards, appearing at court, it is manifest by your esteem and affection towards him, how much he excelled all other men. But, if you still blame my secrecy, consider, that I had no other way of rewarding his merit, than by suffering him to loose those honours which, as his due, you undoubtedly would have conferred upon him. But if you have doubts of a higher nature, because a maiden kept his counsel, I appeal to my greatest enemy for the truth of what I have asserted.— I mean Seleniffa, who alone being privy to this secret, has discovered the whole affair to Radirobanes. If she had not been the falsest, wickedest woman living, she would not thus have violated her faith, nor have revealed to strangers what she concealed from you: yet is not my innocence afraid to call even her to witness. If I have
deserved

deserved your displeasure; if I have wronged my honour by any secret immodesty; then will I with my own hands revenge the wrong I have done to my own chastity and my father's honour, and let out that blood which is unworthy to be derived from you."

While she was speaking, she embraced her father's knees, she kissed his hand, and looked on him with so much tenderness, that already she was justified in his opinion. — Yet many things troubled his mind; the breach with Radirobanes, which could not be avoided; — the suspicions of the people upon the accusation of Argenis, who, tho' she was strictly chaste, yet most probably, on Polyarchus's account, had shewed so much dislike to Radirobanes. — But his daughter still urging him to send for Selmissa, himself commanded a servant to fetch that old woman directly to him. None of the lords knew what private business was between them, but they supposed it to be of great importance, which the king imparted to his daughter only. Full of doubts,

they made various conjectures while they impatiently expected the issue of it. Selemissa, thinking of nothing so little as the business for which she was called, entered the room, the solitude of which, with the affliction in the king's countenance, and a secret foreboding of her conscience, altogether suddenly suggested some trouble was near at hand. But Argenis, with unusual sharpness in her look and manner, turned to her, saying, "I intreat you, mother, by Radirobanes—for what name can I use more pleasing or respected by you—that you will speak freely before your king and mine, and tell me, what intercourse improper for virgin purity I have at any time held with Polyarchus?—Be under no fear of any blame for what you have hitherto concealed; the king pardons you that, upon condition that you now freely declare all that you know."—The old woman trembled with fear; yet, being very cunning, she suddenly recollected herself, that her emotion might seem to arise from suspected innocence rather than treachery detected.—

"To

"To whom, said she, shall I speak, when
 I am by both accused of such treachery? —
 I know of no familiarity between Radiro-
 banes and myself; nor between you, lady,
 and Polyarchus." — "Nay, (replied Ar-
 genis) but lay aside your confidence! —
 See here the letter from Radirobanes to the
 king, in which he declares that you disco-
 vered to him the secret of the disguise of
 Polyarchus, under the names of Theocrine
 and Pallas. I have confessed all these
 things to my father. But Radirobanes has
 reproached me with violating my honour;
 whether from your report, I know not.
 You are called to this purpose; speak freely,
 as the Gods shall help you! speak the truth,
 before it be wrung from you by tortures.
 Wherein have I wronged the honour of my
 family?" — Meleander was pleased with this
 eagerness of Argenis, who certainly would
 not have provoked and urged Selenissa so
 far, if she had not relied upon her own
 innocence. "I will not, said he, have these
 things improperly examined, nor will I
 endure

endure you, Selenissa, if you do not discover all that you know concerning Polyarchus with more fidelity than before you have concealed it." On this the old woman, overcome with remorse, fell down at Meleander's feet. "The sum of all that I know, said she, is this: There is nothing upon earth more pure, more sacred than Argenis; nor any thing more base and treacherous than Radiobanes. If you will permit me to return to my chamber, I will soon satisfy you by certain tokens, and especially by some letters, that will be of such credit with you, that these suspicions shall no longer disquiet your mind, nor shall you any longer wonder that Radiobanes had intelligence of these things before yourself. I shall not stay long: I might have returned before this time that we talk here to no purpose." The king trusted to so large a promise: he bade her go quickly, and bade her take heed, for he would no longer be abused. Yet to carry it so, that the subject of their disputes might not be known to the lords without,

Argenis

Argenis did not offer to hinder her, lest she should seem to prevent or delay the person who was going to bring more certain evidence against her.

CHAP. III.

*Selenissa's despair and death. Her epitaph.
The king holds a council concerning the
herald of Radirobanes. The herald sent
back. The departure of the king of Sar-
dinia.*

THE old woman, as soon as she was out of their sight, hastened to her chamber; and shutting the door after her, "Now, said she, I am once again in my own power: now I may be my own judge, and not expect from others the sentence I have deserved. O most unfortunate woman that I am! here have I lived thus long in reputation to die like a criminal.—What blinded my understanding, that I could not see the fate which attends as the reward of treason?—that I could trust a young man whom I had reason to suspect of many vices?—I, who had lived so long, who had so much experience—did I give up to his gifts, to his promises, myself, my faith, and the love of my dear foster-child?—"

Too

THE PHŒNIX. 111

Too late, Seleniffa, thou thinkest on these things: it had been virtue in thee to have resisted these temptations; but now thy penitence resembles that of a thief, because his villany was unsuccessful.——Did then Radirobanes ruin me by this spiteful information, who had done nothing to displease him, except he was disgusted with my endeavours to serve him?——O misery!——Whom shall I look upon?——Where shall I fly?——To whom can I complain of treachery, when I myself was the example?——Why then am I thus slow in leaving this world?——I ought to expiate my fault by death—for what have I farther to expect?——I have made myself odious to Argenis; and the king, moved by his daughter's complaints, will inflict on me some shameful and exemplary punishment.——Nor is my greatest offence yet brought to light, that I advised Radirobanes to carry off Argenis. When this shall be known (and I have now no hope to conceal it) what length of time or penitence can blot from the mind of my sovereign the remembrance
of

of so great a crime?—If their clemency is ever so great, they will banish me their sight. I shall be despised by all men, afraid of my princess's revenge, and, expecting the punishment I have deserved, I shall never think myself safe alone, nor in company.—Thou art worthy, Selenissa, of greater shame than yet thou hast endured, except thou darest to prevent it by instant death.—At these words she hastily took her tablets, and with a trembling hand wrote this letter.

TO MELEANDER and ARGENIS,
the best of princes.

IF there were any punishment greater than death, I would have made choice of it.

Receive my blood, which is not so much defiled with my crimes, but that it may be offered as an expiation to the Gods. Do not you, by the severity of my punishment, judge my fault to be greater than my repentance. I confess that I betrayed the important secret of the history, concealment,

ment, and virtues of Polyarchus; but if ever I said any thing tending to your dishonour, most dear lady, may I find the infernal Gods as cruel to me as I have been faithless to you. — Believe a dying woman, and forgive me this one fault, for the sake of my past life and services; or if that be too much, for this weapon's sake, that executes your vengeance on me.

This letter she delivered to one of her servants, “Go, said she, and desire, in my name, one of the ushers in waiting to deliver this letter to the king; he commanded me to send it to him immediately.” Afterwards, being now furiously bent upon death, she sometimes attempted it; and then again her resolution slackened, and she sighed and wept. There was a maid-servant in the next room, who heard every word she had said; she durst neither come forward, nor go away, having heard her mistress's secret. She did not believe that her despair would have so fatal a conclusion, and therefore waited till she should go

go forth, intending privately to follow her. But Selenissa, assured that the praise of a voluntary death lay in the speedy performance of it, and fearful that some would come soon from the king to prevent her, opened a cabinet, in which lay a little sword, which her husband gave to her son when a child, and which she kept ever since, with a design to offer it, together with his swathing bands, on the day of his marriage, to Juno Lucina. When she took it up, being reminded of her dead husband and her living son, whom she was about to leave a friendless orphan, her mind being employed upon many different objects, she kissed the hilt, and for a while delayed the intended stroke. But the maid fearing this would prove a real tragedy, leaped out to take the weapon from her: at the same instant they heard at the door messengers, who were sent from the king. The old woman seeing those who were come to hinder her, and having yet her hands at liberty, struck herself so deeply into the bowels, that her strength failing she fell upon

upon her breast, and buried the weapon in the wound. The maid shrieked out, and embracing her dying mistress, frightened those that were already amazed. For Archombrotus and Eurimedes breaking open the door, now entered, followed by many others, whom Meleander urged, when he received the fatal letter, to make haste and prevent the death of that wretched woman. Eurimedes putting the maid aside supported Selenissa, looking ghastly with her eyes fixed. “What an action is this, matron, said he!—Why do you thus ruin yourself and your family?”—She said nothing, but once lifting up her eyes, and letting her head fall, expired. They were all silent for some time, then a whispering arose; some carried the report of this action, and brought many of the nobles to view the spectacle. The king was extremely troubled at her death: in Argenis there appeared no sign, either of hatred or pity. Amidst the conflict of different passions she stood apparently unmoved. She reflected upon the consequences of Selenissa’s death.

What

What would Sicily think of it?—What would Radrobanes say among his Sardinians?—The old woman, by this revenge upon herself, had far more divulged the secret of Polyarchus, than by her first discovery.—Besides, as things had proceeded so far, she hoped the king would have heard from Selenissa the secret of her contract with Polyarchus, which she had not courage to reveal to her father, yet had intended resolutely to defend when it should be known. After some time the king commanded all the company to withdraw. He ordered the body to be buried privately, without any solemnity, and suffered nothing to be said of it in his presence: but some time after, when the cause of her death was spread abroad, a certain poet (it was not known who) made this epitaph: Stranger, this tomb grief's monument doth bear; Twice do they die who self-condemned are! Speak not such words as may her ghost affright, Nor such as make the gentle earth lie light. Do not presume to bless or curse this grave; But say, "As thou deservest, may't thou have!"—'Tis doubtful whether Selenissa's fate Deserves the most our pity or our hate.

Meleander

Meleander being oppressed with so many
 fresh cares, and doubtful what to do about
 Radirobanes, his herald, and his letter,
 called some of his most trusty friends to
 consult with upon the occasion. He shewed
 them the troublesome situation of his affairs,
 how his honour was questioned by Radiro-
 banes, who did not so much require as
 command the payment of three hundred
 talents to pay the soldiers he brought to his
 assistance: that he would resent his inso-
 lence by arms, but that Sicily was already
 exhausted by civil war; and it might seem
 proper to give Radirobanes time to repent
 of his insult, who behaved like a madman,
 and with his indiscreet anger strengthened
 the suspicions of the day before. He dis-
 coursed of these things at large, and yet
 carefully avoided any mention of the charge
 against the honour of Argenis; not but
 that he imagined the whole story would at
 some time or other be known; but he re-
 spected the modesty of his daughter who
 was present, and by his own silence gave a
 tacit admonition to his servants never again
 to

to revive so base a slander; but that they might know it was a business of great consequence, wherein he required their advice. He told them farther, that Selenissa had treacherously disclosed certain secrets of great consequence to the king of Sardinia, which, though not faulty in themselves, he had abused by a most false and malicious interpretation; adding, that Selenissa, compared with Radiobanes, was an innocent person, who yet thought nothing less than death could expiate her offence. The council with one voice agreed that Radiobanes ought to be held as the enemy of Sicily; that the assistance he brought was not out of any good will, but only to remove Lycogenes out of the way, that he might put in effect what the other intended. There was a long debate concerning the herald: some said he should be put to death; others, that he should be mangled and maimed, and so sent back to Radiobanes; but the opinion of Cleobulus prevailed, who advised them against violating the rights of nations in the person of a herald; justly observing, that it

was

was very probable that Radirobanes would be glad of such treatment, in order to make it a pretence of quarrel; and that the proud king would be more mortified by contempt than resentment. To this the king assented. Eurimedes called the herald to him (for they thought it improper to bring him again into Meleander's presence) and thus spoke: "If thou had'st brought so impudent a letter from a king in his right mind thou had'st not lived to this hour; but we are content to bear with the madness of thy master, to whom thou shalt say, in king Meleander's name, That a man in a frenzy deserves no answer; but that he will do well for the future to forbear writing to kings, till he be cured of his lunacy."

When the herald was departed, there was a strong guard of soldiers appointed to Arsidas to defend the harbour; and Timonides commanded the sailors on board the fleet, that in case Radirobanes should offer any insult besides words, he might be opposed with equal force.

And

And now Radirobanes began to fear, not so much that the herald had paid his head for his insolence, as that all Sicily should attack his fleet. His anger was by this time abated, and he reflected on the inconveniencies of a war, which his rage did not suffer him to think on before. While he was considering these things, he saw a boat put out of the harbour, and soon perceived it was that which brought back his herald; who, not yet freed from his fears, related the message of Eurimedes, aggravating the manner in which it was delivered; and also, that there was some great trouble at the court, the cause of which he could not understand; for that after the death of Selenissa there was a great bustle, and Cleobulus set a guard upon the herald, that he might not by any means become acquainted with this accident.

Radirobanes, loaded with so many cares, resolved to depart before he should be compelled to fight or to fly; for to what end should he stay longer without forces sufficient

sufficient to resist the enemy. Therefore he resolved to return back to Calaris, at that time the chief city in Sardinia, and reinforcing himself with a powerful army and navy, to return and invade Sicily. The rest of the day he lay still at anchor; in the evening, the wind blowing fair, he commanded to weigh anchor, and set their course for Sardinia. And that he might not seem to depart fearfully, or by stealth, he ordered his men to redouble their shouts and cries in doing their ordinary business of preparing for the voyage. The soldiers also called upon their absent country, and invoked the Sea-gods, till their shoutings were heard on the shore. Meleander, thinking the battle was beginning, commanded his sailors to make ready, and the port and shore to be lined with soldiers. He would not suffer his ships to go out to sea, because lying in the harbour they might be seconded by the land forces, wherein he was strongest; and the Sardinians, being charged on both sides, might easily be defeated. The near approaching night

increased the general terror and confusion; but the enemy being carried out to sea with a fair wind, first ceased to be heard, and soon after were out of sight. Yet, lest their departure should be feigned, and they return unawares, the greater part of the army and many of the nobility kept watch about the harbour all night. Among them was Nicopompus, who in the dead of night, when their stillness and his own watchfulness gave his mind the necessary liberty, composed the following lines, in which he bequeathed the Sardinians to the mercy of storms and tempests.

Go, treacherous ships, your sails let tempests drive :
Such faith to you let winds and waters give
As you deserve ! — Bellona shall attend,
And, kindled with her brands, the clouds descend,
Pouring infernal lightning on your fleet,
Which ev'ry vengeful God at sea shall meet.
Our seas with horrid monsters raise your fear,
There dreadful Scylla, rough Charybdis here !
Thither your scatter'd fleet let whirlwinds bear,
Devouring waters bury, tempests tear !
O thou, whom adverse stars did hither bring !
Unworthy to be call'd Sardinia's king !

Behold

Behold how small a space keeps from the sea
 Thy life; which neither pow'r nor strength can free!
 The bold and fearful, in like doubtful state,
 Are in the hands of pow'rful Gods and Fate.
 When thy proud ship, that ev'ry danger braves,
 Shall drive at large, the sport of winds and waves;
 Toss'd up and down, the parting waves their way
 Shall open, and their dreadful depths display;
 What aid wilt thou invoke?—What deity
 Shall hear thy vain, unus'd, and bootless cry?
 The Gods will not be cheated, nor thy fear
 Excuse thy guilt.—The winds away shall bear
 Thy pray'rs.—On the loud storm thy voice shall
 drown;
 The Gods hear only those, whose virtues make them
 known.

CHAP. IV.

Eurimedes advises the king to keep an army on foot, the better to preserve peace. Durnalbius answers him, and points out the way for the king to fortify Sicily.

MELEANDER was not yet quite at ease, fearing that Radirobanes might bring his fleet upon some other part of the coast that was less guarded; but in less than two days his people returning whom he had sent out to observe his motions, brought word that he steered his course for Sardinia. Then, as in a danger deferred but not past, he began to consult how he should defend Sicily, and be prepared to meet the enemy, whom he expected to return.

It was long since that Eurimedes, a man of approved valour and knowledge in affairs relating to war, had advised the king to provide for the security of the kingdom by keeping an army always in pay, and in readiness

readiness for employment. It seemed as if fortune presented an opportunity to profit by his advice; for about this time, as the king was walking between him and Dunalbius, and debating about placing garrisons in the sea-port towns, as a defence against the Sardinians, he spoke to this effect: "My lord, if you had followed my advice, from the beginning, against Lycogenes, Radirobanes had not now provoked you, or else you would have been enabled to oppose him: but if you now continue to neglect these things, though he should be repulsed, fortune will find others that will never suffer you to lay aside your arms or suspicions. Now is your time to raise an army that may be equally useful in war or peace; that will keep your subjects to their duty, and your enemies in awe. All civil wars proceed either from a faction headed by a few great men, or from the unanimous agreement of the multitude. There is nothing more wholesome for both these maladies of the commonwealth, than to have such an army

G 3

always

always in readiness; for whether a particular faction, or the body of the people rise against the king, they can never be able to oppose an army of men under regular discipline and proper officers. So that either to preserve peace at home, or defend our country against foreign enemies, the veteran soldier is only to be relied on, who being experienced in every part of the business of war, is always prepared to meet the enemy. An army composed of such men will also procure you the respect of other nations: they will know that their peace depends on you, whom they can neither offend or neglect with safety; and thus you will sit arbiter between neighbouring princes, who have not the same strength or ability to make war. We know that our nation hath always been renowned for courage in war; but how much more famous will they become, if discipline shall improve their nature to its utmost perfection, and if your enemies shall know that you have an army not of young novices, but of old and experienced soldiers.

But

A O

They

They who provoke you shall quickly find the difference between an army of new-raised men, and those who can reckon their years by their services. Do you think, Sire, that soldiers lately raised and disciplined will fight with that spirit and confidence, as those who for ancient love, and more like household servants than soldiers, defend their prince, upon whom they depend for food and subsistence, and to whom the fortune of their lives hath united them. Besides, it is only by experience that we discover the abilities of men in their profession; but in armies raised suddenly you give arms to inexperienced men, and often you know not whether you send out a man or an image. Therefore, in my opinion, there is as much difference between a new-raised army and an experienced one, as between a ship that is built of the best approved timber, and one built with green and unseasoned wood, and all manner of bad materials. But it is said, that we must consider the charge of maintaining an army. — So many officers

and soldiers to be supported by the labours of others, will be a great burthen to the state.—Let us call to mind the desolation, the spoiling, the wasting of our treasure; that we have suffered in the late dissention. Hath not the fury of a few months consumed the wealth, that would for many years have maintained such an army as might have prevented these calamities?—Add to these, the many violences committed upon the persons and properties of our subjects; and surely we free ourselves from these dangers at a cheap rate, by the protection of a standing army.”

Dunalbius was a man of consummate knowledge in state affairs, and both by nature and education qualified to govern a commonwealth. While Eurimedes was speaking, he often bent his brow, and by the change of his countenance gave signs of dissent from his arguments.—Meleander observed that he seemed of a different opinion, and was glad that he had an opportunity, out of the wisdom of both, to gather what was best for his practice.

Dunalbius

Dunalbius therefore, by the king's command, replying to what Eurimedes had said, spoke after the following manner: "Except Eurimedes had measured the fidelity of others by his own, surely, my lord, he would never have attributed so much to soldiers, as to have placed the safety of his prince and country, not only in the use and employment of them, but as it were, under the shadow of their camp. Tho' my profession hath exempted me from all military duties, yet I shall not be afraid to speak my opinion, since we dispute not concerning the mischiefs of war, but how far an army can give strength and security to peace: nor will I so much oppose your opinion, Eurimedes, as desire information in those points whereof I am ignorant or doubtful. I never approved their judgments, who administer physic to healthy bodies against maladies that may hereafter afflict them; and by this means, waken the latent causes of diseases, which are never worse sharpened than by such a contention. How many sicknesses, how many

deaths have been occasioned by stirring up the humours, that were before in a state of quietness? Like these men, are those who seek for dangerous remedies against future troubles, which are as likely to ruin, as to preserve a state. Among these uncertain remedies I place an army; for if the soldiers are assembled in arms, they are soon sensible of their own consequence; and if thro' pride, or resentment, they fall from their duty, they are no longer under the command of those who called them together. How powerful a body is an army, under proper officers, and regular discipline? yet they hardly know their own strength, so long as they are employed against the enemy: but when by their power a peace is concluded, and no new danger makes them forget their former victories, then they begin to upbraid their king and country with their services; they calculate how much they have effected; they believe that the fate of their prince and nation depends upon them. These ideas do not enter their minds at once, but by degrees, by time, custom,

custom, and conversing together; then they begin to look upon themselves as a separate body of people; they cabal together, and at length they grow wanton with idleness; which, tho' it abates their most useful courage, adds as much to their pride and sauciness: then, if they are not in their own opinions duly rewarded, if they are not treated with all the respect and observance which they think due to their merits, presently they murmur, grow insolent, and at last make themselves feared. But what will be the case if they are solicited by their commanders, or by the factious great men, and enticed by hopes of greater pay, of booty, riot, and liberty of offending?—The Gods turn so great a plague upon the heads of our enemies!—For I cannot be of opinion with Eurimedes, that they will love the king above all men, because they receive their pay from his treasury; they will much more highly esteem their officers, who are the supporters of a military power; and they likewise expect

pect to enjoy greater liberty under them, than under the king's authority.

"But over these forces that are to be kept up in time of peace, will you appoint one general only, or shall there be many lieutenants of equal power over the different divisions of them?—If you divide this authority among many, their discipline will be different, and ill observed; the leaders will emulate and contend with each other, and the army will be weakened and disunited: but if you entrust this power to one person, then you put yourself, your authority and life into his hand. At his pleasure you shall reign or be ruined. When he finds himself to hold the reins of power and rule, will his integrity be proof against such temptations as shall assault him, and proudly tell him what he is able to do?—I wish at least, that they were like Eurimedes, to whom kings commit the charge of their power and fortunes; yet I cannot believe that he would accept of so invidious a dignity, or stand in so dangerous a situation."

Eurimedes

Eurimedes answered the arguments of
 Dunalbius, and he again reply'd, till at
 length Meleander moderated between them,
 by approving those things that each allowed
 in the other's opinion: that great armies
 are dangerous both to kings and their peo-
 ple, but it was necessary to keep garriso-
 ns in the forts, and to keep up the navy.
 That the coast of Sicily should be guard-
 ed by twenty gallies, whereof some should
 keep the sea, and the rest lie in the principal
 ports, ready for the king's service. That,
 besides these, there should be several new
 regiments raised, partly of the able youth,
 and partly of those who had served some
 time, to the number of eight thousand men.
 Half of these should always wait upon the
 king, the rest should remain in quarters;
 but so that the soldier should be always
 half the year at home. Those that attend
 the king, not to reside all together, but
 every thousand to be encamped by them-
 selves, or else be billeted about the country,
 near the town where the king shall reside,
 nor indeed the people who receive the be-
 nefit

ness of the king's court and attendants, think it a hardship to receive his guards into their houses as their comrades. "Moreover, said he, let their pay be increased, and oblige them to leave nothing unpaid; let their laws of obedience be strict, and even severe. Let them be punished for every irregularity, for theft, wantonness, riots, and every offence against the laws. And lest they shou'd be corrupted with idleness, let them be kept in action by all kind of military exercises, and sometimes made to march under arms, that they may not think it laborious when they are suddenly called upon to march against the enemy. There shall be no officer of any note among them but of the king's appointing, two thousand of them to be horse, the rest furnished for service as need shall require. With such a force any sudden tumult may be quieted; and if a greater army were required, fresh companies might soon be trained up for service."

Eurimedes affirmed that he desired no greater army in the time of peace; Dunal-
bius

buis wished for no less; but all agreed that the prospect of a war with the Sardinians required a considerable addition, and that they should make preparations to receive them.

CHAP. V.

Meleander considers about the disposal of his daughter. He resolves to marry her to Archombrotus. He declares his design to Argenis, who demands two months to deliberate on it.

MELEANDER transferred to Eu-
rimedes such part of his cares as
related to military preparations, and ap-
plied himself to affairs of his private family.
Above all things his thoughts were employed
on Argenis. She was innocent. She was fault-
less. She possessed superior graces and excel-
lencies. Yet, she was the cause of all the
troubles that had lately disturbed Sicily.
Lycogenes aspiring to marry her, raised a
storm that was with difficulty allayed. Ra-
diobanes succeeded him in his pretensions,
and the event of his repulse was yet doubt-
ful. And there might probably arise others,
whom the merits of the lady, and the in-
heritance of a crown, would enflame with the
same desires, till such time as this happiness
being

being bestowed upon one, would put an end to the pretensions of all others. At length, the king resolved to dispose of his daughter in marriage, as deeming that the only and best remedy for all his troubles; and thinking not only of a son-in-law, but of grand-children, he was delighted with the sweet idea, and his desire became the more earnest. But whom should he elect to such a fortune?—he could not find among the neighbouring princes any that were marriageable.—“And is there a necessity, said he, that I should find out a throne or sceptre?—or is it a husband that I seek for my daughter?—Surely our ancestors made a wise law, that no king or queen of Sicily should add another kingdom to it by marriage, lest this country, being forsaken by her princes, should fall under the dominion of a more powerful kingdom. Sicily is of herself sufficient to breed and provide for her own princes, and I shall provide well for my daughter, if I give her a husband that shall owe to her his fortune and felicity. It is the custom of

of the Thracians to buy their wives, but let there be nobility, wisdom, and virtue in her bridegroom, and my Argenis on the contrary shall bring him a dowry sufficient."

Meleander was the more inclined to this opinion, because his affection led him to this design, that he might raise his beloved Archombrotus to the condition of his heir by this marriage. Neither did he believe that Argenis would object to it; but if she should, he would use the authority of a parent, to insist on her obedience to his will. It remained only to know the young man's country and descent; for however great his virtues were, the king would not give his daughter to a man of low parentage. Having sufficiently considered all these things, he went to Argenis's apartment, and put on the behaviour of a father and a king, that he might the easier bring his wishes to effect. "My daughter, said he, I find that Sicily complains of us, no less than we do of her frequent commotions; for the desire of a kingdom, and the hope of a marriage with thee, excited in Lycogenes
and

and Radiobanes those attempts that have cost so much trouble and vexation in this land. Why then do we delay to stop the spring from whence so many mischiefs proceed, by making choice of a husband for thee?—At length I am resolved to provide safely for thee, and a support for my old age. I will not doubt of thy consent, to do that which I might by my own authority command. Wilt thou not, my Argenis, suffer thy father to chuse a husband for thee?—As a king and a father I have a right to do this, and it becomes not thy modesty to oppose it.”——The lady confused and perplexed answered, that she would consider of it.—“Is it then become necessary to consider, (said the king) whether you will do your duty or not?—There have been delays more than enough: I ask you, my child, if you will be governed by me?”—Argenis, trembling to hear her father speak so absolutely, answered faintly, that she would obey his will and pleasure. Meleander commended her duty and affection, and kissing her, he said, “You know that my life is
not

not dearer to me than my child, and you do well to rely upon your father."

The next day, as he was walking in the garden, he called Archombrotus aside. "Young man, said he, if an enemy or a stranger should enquire after your birth and family, you might suspect the motive of his curiosity; but since I who am your friend have been contented to remain so long ignorant of your quality, you may believe, that I now enquire more for your sake than my own. I have business of great importance, and such as might not be unpleasing to you to communicate, if I were first satisfied concerning your parentage.—You know how much I have trusted you, though a stranger; all my secrets of state have been imparted to you, though a young man and a foreigner; neither were these marks of favour above your desert; for, to pass over other things, I cannot forget that you hazarded your own life to save mine in the water, nor yet can I do otherwise than remember the death of Lycogenes. After these mutual marks of friendship and affection,

fection, why are you so backward to acquaint me with your parentage — which, Jupiter be gracious to me as I now desire to know only for your honour and advantage?"

The intreaties of Meleander shook the young man's resolution: he considered what might be the reason, why he so earnestly desired now to know what he so long patiently bore to be concealed, and what favour it was that could not be conferred upon him before his family was known. But soon the marriage of Argenis struck his apprehension, because it was uppermost in his mind, and presented to his imagination the idea of supreme felicity. Then again he laboured to shake off that hope as vain and presumptuous: at length, with words more settled than his thoughts, he replied. — "Great king, you have doubled all your favours to me, in permitting a man to serve you to whom you are yet a stranger; nor can I understand what service I can do you to make me wicked, that is, to disobey the absolute commands of my parents,

parents, who have strictly enjoined me not to reveal my name and family.—Yet, that you may not think me of a froward and obstinate disposition, I will discover to you all that I may lawfully, concealing only the names of my country and parents.—My descent is royal, and my country in peace. I came hither not by compulsion, nor for any dislike at home, but by the express command of my parent, to be acquainted with your virtues, and your manner of government.”

While he was speaking, the king embraced him with renewed pleasure. “And what, said he, are your thoughts of Sicily?—How do you like our court?—or, to come still nearer, what think you of my old age, and the youth and disposition of my daughter?”—Upon this, Archombrotus’s hopes were raised still higher; and he answered, that he loved and honoured all these in a degree little short of adoration. “Well, said the king, I intend at no less price to purchase thee.—I pass by the killing of Lycogenes, and the preservation

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of my life : there is something yet stranger, that binds my affections to you. Your disposition bent to all kinds of virtue; your conversation pleasing; your manners amiable; and, above all that, you have loved me sincerely. I will never part with you; and if, as you have declared (and I am inclined to believe) you are of princely birth, I will freely give you my Argenis, who hath been sought by so many suitors, and hath been the cause of so much violence. How great soever your parents may be, they shall not be ashamed of your wife. It only remains, therefore, that you make a full discovery of your birth and fortunes, and promise never to forsake my white hairs, but to live with me so long as the Gods shall ordain my life, and then close my eyes."

Archombrotus trembled with excess of joy, to find that happiness freely offered to him which he would have purchased with his best blood; and doubtful whether he should first worship the Gods, or thank the king for this blessing, he threw himself at Meleander's

Meleander's feet, and embraced his knees, holding him fast, who strove to hinder it. When he was able to speak, there was no end of his acknowledgements. Meleander, pleased with his raptures of joy, threw his arms about his neck as he kneeled before him. All that were in sight wondered what was the meaning of these mutual expressions of love and kindness; but the king charged Archombrotus to conceal the business for the present; and returning to his friends, he spent some time in discoursing upon various subjects. Afterwards retiring into the palace, with Archombrotus walking by his side, "How long, said he, wilt thou delay our joys, by keeping us ignorant of thy birth?"—"I thought, said he, to have made this motion to your majesty.—I desire two months, in which time I will acquaint my parents with my happiness, and return with an equipage fit for my birth and state, and as becomes your son-in-law. The mention of his departure displeased Meleander. "I will not suffer you to be torn from us, Archombrotus, said he, unless you

you scorn our alliance, and lightly regard us, because we loved you first. If you accept our offer, write home to your friends and country; for you are now too dear to me to be trusted to the seas and fortune." Archombrotus perceiving, by the affection of the good old man, the part he ought to take, kissed his hand, and assured him that he would in this and all other respects obey his commands.

The king, who had not yet informed Argenis who it was that he had chosen for her husband; when Archombrotus left him, he sent for her, and repeating what he had before said, concerning the necessity of her marriage, he told her, that he had made choice of a son-in-law equal to his utmost wishes of royal extraction, and virtues suitable to his qualities. Finally, he explained, that it was Archombrotus who seemed destined to this alliance, by the fates giving him the honour of saving the king's life, and the personal victory over Lycogenes.

Meleander spoke with an air of severity, that seemed nearer to command than advise. Argenis concealed her inward sensations, and though she was greatly displeased to be promised in this manner to a stranger, and against her liking, yet, as if she allowed of her father's design, she spoke after this manner: "There is nothing more to be feared, than that this sudden marriage, without the knowledge or approbation of our friends, should be ill spoken of; and it should be reported, that Radirobanes was unjustly rejected and expelled, that you might have room to shew you partiality for Archombrotus. There ought therefore to be some time allowed to take off the surprize of this novelty, and that men might know Archombrotus was a lover, before they see him a husband."—This reason seemed of some weight to Meleander; yet fearing that the princess put in this delay on purpose to break off the marriage, he spoke thus to try her. "If we must give some time to report, let us not give too much to fortune. What time, Argenis,

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do you judge to be necessary?—She declined an answer, referring it to the king's pleasure; and when her father urged her repeatedly, at length, reluctantly, and as if she were fixing the term of her own life, —“It seems to me, said she, that two months will be time sufficient.”—Then the king assured himself, that she wanted to gain time for herself, rather than report; yet, that he might not seem too hard with her in every point, —“Will you then promise me, said he, that you will not oppose the conclusion, of the marriage at that time?”—“I will, replied she; and by the assistance of the Gods, I hope never to offend you in words or actions.”—She promised the more freely, because she hoped, that before the expiration of that time Polyarchus would arrive, and ascertain both their lives and happiness; but if he should not come, she was fixed on using her liberty in death, as desiring to live no longer. But the king put a more agreeable construction upon her words, believing, that in obedience to her father's commands, she subdued those af-

fections that had formerly attacked the freedom of her thoughts. He therefore spoke kindly to her, as a conqueror, and secure of his purpose; and for that time dismissed her from his presence.

ARGENTIS being vexed with so many sorrows, thought more of her own miseries than of the public happiness. She considered, that when Lycogenes was over- come, she was persecuted by Radriobanes. She was hardly freed from that danger, and Sicily began to take breath, when greater fears pursued her from Archombrus, who seemed to have so much power to distress her, that she could almost wish for Radriobanes again. "Must I then (exclaimed she) for ever bewail either my country or myself?—Will the fates compromise the miseries of Sicily upon no other terms, than that I must, with my life, redeem the people from their calamities?—Must this pomp, these honours, this beauty, be the instruments

CHAP. VI.

Argenis laments her misfortunes.—She writes to Polyarchus; and acquaints Arsidas with her design, who undertakes to find out Polyarchus, and deliver her letters to him.

ARGENIS being vexed with so many sorrows, thought more of her own miseries than of the public happiness. She considered, that when Lycogenes was overcome, she was persecuted by Radirobanes. She was hardly freed from that danger, and Sicily began to take breath, when greater fears pursued her from Archombrotus, who seemed to have so much power to distress her, that she could almost wish for Radirobanes again. “Must I then (exclaimed she) for ever bewail either my country or myself?—Will the fates compromise the miseries of Sicily upon no easier terms, than that I must, with my life, redeem the people from their calamities?—Must this pomp, these honours, this beauty, be the

instruments of sacrifice, with which I must be offered up to the offended Gods of Sicily?—Must I be the Macaria of Hercules, or Agamemnon's Iphigenia, and purchase the security of others only with my innocent blood?—But fortune shall not much longer make me her mockery:—this tenth wave shall either end the storm, or sink my bark at once.—The Gods are my witnesses how willingly I would fly to death for deliverance from these evils!—Did I not fear for thy sake, Polyarchus!—and had not Selenissa taught me by her death, that it is a refuge for the wicked!—Then she began carefully to consider, whether she should wait the return of Polyarchus, or hasten his coming by letters.—It was now above a month since his departure: he appointed to return by the end of the third month; and it was the part of such a lover as Polyarchus rather to prevent the time, than tarry to the last day of it: yet she determined to write, notwithstanding; and fresh words offering

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with fresh anguish, she thus in a letter expressed herself.

ARGENTIS TO POLYARCHUS.

THOUGH I am absent from thee, Polyarchus, perhaps I know the state of thy health better than thou dost; for though thou may'st not feel thy sickness, I am assured thou wilt share my fate; and how short a date of life is allotted to me, thou shalt understand by this letter. Radirobanes violating the honour of a king, and the laws of hospitality, because I refused to be his, laid a scheme to carry me off by violence, which was ready to be effected, when the treachery being discovered, we escaped to the town, and he returned to his fleet. Upon this, his love being changed into rage and hatred, he cast base aspersions upon my honour, as if I had loved thee more freely than virtue allows. Selenissa had betrayed the secrets of our friendship to him, and on that circumstance it was, that this wicked man grounded his

malice against me : but my father defended me and the truth; and Selenissa, by a violent death, I made satisfaction for her treachery. But Radirobanes departed for Sardinia, surely to be punished hereafter, if the Gods are just. I began to be happy after his departure, when my father— (I am almost afraid to tell it, lest you should hate him; but you ought rather to be displeased with the fates that distress us)— my father commanded me to love Archombrotus. He tells me that he is descended from kings; that his person, his behaviour, and his disposition please him; and finally, that he shall be his son-in-law. I durst not provoke my father by an absolute refusal; I chose rather, under another pretence, to gain so much time as was sufficient for thy return. Two months are granted me, at the end of which I must consent to this marriage. If within that time thou return, I will go with thee; if otherwise, we will neglect no means of escaping. But, if thou abandon me,—on my wedding day, and in my bridal ornaments,

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ments, when my father shall require my hand for Archombrotus; I will say, it is consecrated to the infernal Gods, and withal will stab myself to the heart with a dagger that I will wear concealed for that purpose. If this should happen, hear, O Polyarchus, my last request, and think that Argenis speaks to thee weltering in her own blood! — Pity and forgive my father; it will be punishment enough for him to behold the spectacle of my death. I leave it to thee to determine the fate of Archombrotus; but if thou shalt suffer Radiobanes to live unpunished, I will return from the grave to remind thee of thy duty. Take thy full revenge upon that traitor, who, to the utmost of his power, robbed me of my honour; and let him know, by thy resentment, how great a crime he hath committed. Having executed my revenge, cause my name to be engraven upon the tomb of thy ancestors, together with an account of our misfortunes, that posterity may know our fidelity, and lament our fate. But thou, Polyarchus, avoid the sight of this island, except thou

hast love enough for my ashes, to take the urn of thy betrothed wife into thy bosom; or, what is better, to bury it with thy ancestors.—Prevent all these mischiefs by thy return hither, if possible; but if thou canst not arrive in time, respect the last commands of thy dying Argenis, and live to love my memory.

Having sealed her letters, she considered to whose fidelity she should trust this important commission; for Timoclea had been but a few days before preferred to Selenissa's place, and she judged it improper to trust a secret of so great consequence to her. Neither did she chuse to employ Arfidas alone in these private messages, lest, being tired with so many dangers, he should stand in fear of the King's displeasure. Yet she thought none so proper for this employment, because he only was privy to the engagement and secret correspondence between her and Polyarchus. At length she sent for him, and thus spoke to him.

If I feared that you, Arfidas, would betray

betray or forsake me, I would call to your mind the fate of Selenissa, who, as I think, found the stings of her treason sharper than death itself, because she flew to that as a remedy for them: for you shall know, though my father and I thought best to conceal it, that old woman discovered to Radirobanes the secret of my engagement with Polyarchus; and afterwards, stung with remorse, she punished herself with her own hand. But thou shalt receive greater reward for thy fidelity if we live, than she suffered punishment for her wickedness. This business draws to a conclusion; expect greater acknowledgements from us, than thy modesty will suffer thee to imagine: but at this time I have letters of consequence that must be delivered to Polyarchus with the utmost diligence and fidelity. Do you make choice of a trusty messenger, but let it be one whose fidelity you have experienced." — Ardidus paused not long: "Lady, replied he, I know of none more faithful than myself. — Why then would you discharge me from your service, as if

I deserved to be dismissed with disgrace?—
I am ready to perform whatever you shall
command; and I will seek Polyarchus in
any part of the world.”

Argenis rejoiced at his free promise, and
enquired what pretence he could make for
going out of the Island. “There is, said
Arfidas, a country in Italy called Latium,
upon the coast of which is Antium, a town
famous for the temple of Fortune, which
is held in great reverence, and visited with
much devotion. I will feign a vow to the
Goddess, and my pilgrimage shall pass un-
suspected. When I am out of Sicily, it is
easy to make excuses for a longer voyage;
business, curiosity, or religious vows to
other places. Only honour me with your
commands, and instruct me which way to
direct my course.”——“If, said Argenis,
you are resolved to deserve my thanks and
prayers, I wish, my Arfidas, that you would
use the utmost speed and diligence.—You
shall find Polyarchus in his own country,
or else on his way hither. And now you
shall hear from me this day more than

Selenissa

Seleniffa did in many years. There is in Gallia, a river called Araris, that runs into another called the Rhone. The country on each side both these rivers is Polyarchus's native land; his parents reign there, and he, their only son, must inherit the kingdom. Observe to what a man you shall render this service!—If he be at home fear not, the very dumb walls will direct you to their prince: only do you persuade him, as my letters urge, to return hither with all speed, and not to rely upon his own valour, but bring with him an armed force out of his own kingdom. You shall first visit the temple of Fortune at Antium, for you must go by that coast: salute the Goddess in my name, and enquire of her the fate of this journey and my hopes. Receive from me this ring, and as often as you look upon your finger, remember that my safety, and that of the prince of Gallia, depend upon your care and fidelity."—With these words, Argenis gave him a ring of great value, and her letters to Polyarchus.

Artidas

Seleniffa

Arfidas was pleased to hear of the royal birth and dignity of Polyarchus, yet he wondered that this alliance should be attended with so many difficulties, till he recollected that famous law of Sicily, which forbade their kings to marry with any state greater than their own; and it was well known that Meleander was a strict observer of his country's laws, and also particularly admired and revered this ordinance. Then Arfidas commended the wisdom of the lady, who concealed her engagement from her father and all Sicily; and likewise acknowledged, that it was necessary for Polyarchus to bring an army out of Gallia, which should serve against Archombrotus, and at the same time use its influence to abrogate this law.

CHAP. VII.

Arfidas visits the temple of Fortune. His conversation with the priest there.

THE next day Arfidas, after sacrificing to the Gods for good success, set out upon his voyage. A fair wind gave him a short and pleasant passage into Italy. There changing his ship, because he would not use Sicilians or sailors that know the country, he passed by Græcia Major, and having doubled the Etruscan coast, came to Antium. There was upon the shore an ancient temple, which in old times had been dedicated to Fortune. The inhabitants shewed it to Arfidas, who, when first he beheld it, saluted the deity with a silent reverence, and prostrated himself upon the sand. From thence going to the temple, the priest met him, drest in a white robe bordered with purple; his long white hair flowed upon his shoulders, and his head was circled with a wreath of laurel; in his hand he carried a staff crowned in the like manner.

manner. When he saw Arfidas in the
 habit of a traveller coming to the temple,
 he thus courteously saluted him: "Stranger,
 thou art welcome!—Whether thou comest
 to petition the Goddess for future favours,
 or being by her delivered from thy fears,
 bringest a grateful mind fit to deserve new
 blessings, — enter, and present thyself
 before a gracious deity, and either with
 proper sacrifices, or with incense if it please
 thee better, pay thy devotions, and render
 her propitious to thee." — "Father, re-
 plied Arfidas, this habit denotes thee to be
 the chief priest of this place; therefore,
 before I present myself before the Goddess,
 instruct me in what manner I must be puri-
 fied, and what kind of sacrifices are required
 to render my worship acceptable?—Tell
 me also, whether I may appear before
 Fortune in the habit of a traveller, for I
 greatly desire to sacrifice to the Goddess,
 and the season, fit for my voyage, will not
 admit of any long delay?—The priest
 shewed him a fountain near the temple; he
 bade him there wash his hands and eyes
 three

three times, and in the mean time, he would bring him a robe and a crown, such as were worn by those that approached the Goddess; and there were in the court of the temple beasts proper for sacrifice, to be sold. "Go then, father, said Artidas, and make choice of such as thou knowest to be most acceptable to Fortune." And so saying, he filled his right hand with pieces of gold. While the priest went about the preparation for the sacrifice that he found most profitable to himself, Artidas and his followers were purified at the fountain. After having cursorily viewed the gates, and the votive tablets that hung about the entrance, he dwelt somewhat longer upon an ancient marble that presented these verses to those that entered the temple.

Hence, ye prophane! let not the man presume,
That harbours vice, within these walls to come!—
Nor he, whom envy's poison'd teeth devour;
Nor he, whose craving hands oppress the poor;
Who impiously his parents death desires,
Or he who burns in lust's unhallow'd fires.
It boots thee not, blind man, with humbled face
To pray, or gifts upon the altar place:
Unless

Unless with contrite tears thou cleanse thy heart,
And leave thy sins behind, far hence depart!—

Their pray'rs or victims blood will not appease
The deity, who wants not gifts like these.

He with a word made all things; he gave veins
That furnish all great nature's store contains.

Idumea's balm, the precious spicy tree,

The richest frankincense of Araby;

The same hand caus'd from several saps to grow,
And on them heavenly fragrance did bestow.

Why boast thy liberality to heaven,

Who to the earth its utmost wealth hath given!

Slay victims, offer gifts, for fear or love

Bestow thy gold!—But think not thou to Jove

Can't sell his own goods at so dear a rate,

Or with such smoke thy vices expiate.

And now the priest came forth with the
sacrifices, and Arsidas in a white robe, with
a crown of laurel on his head, prostrated
himself before the image of the Goddess,
and offered his vows for Argenis and him-
self. The priest made choice of a sucking
calf and two twin-lambs for the sacrifice:
he cut off the head of the first, and dis-
patched the others with the knife, that their
heads might serve for the table. The priest
then cried out aloud, that the entrails pro-
mised

mised all good success; and enquiring of the oracle, he declared that Fortune granted whatever Arsidas desired: afterwards they dressed for themselves what had been offered to the Goddess. While they were at the banquet, and their companions were drinking freely, Arsidas began to dispute with the priest concerning fate, destiny, and the power of Fortune over the world, for by his discourse he discovered him to be a philosopher; and he perceiving that Arsidas was a man of understanding and learning also, thought him worthy to be acquainted with the highest mysteries of their religion, and therefore began thus to speak of them. "The common people are so ignorant, worthy stranger, of what we worship under the name of Fortune, that they have corrupted this mystery by a false and perverse construction of it. They call Fortune whatever is uncertain, and they account for uncertain whatever is undiscoverable by human reason. Therefore they deem Fortune a blind and mutable deity, and charge her whom they worship with more crimes, than

than they would bear in a mortal. If by their own faults they have ill success, if they are deceived in their vain expectations, presently they lay all the blame upon Fortune. They reproach her, that she prefers wicked men to riches and honours, that she pays no respect to the good, and scarcely judges rightly of any thing. Nor do these unhappy men perceive that this Fortune is no divinity, but a phantom of their superstitious minds, who with superfluous cares, fear and worship their own inventions. For this deity which they feign to themselves, either can or cannot dispose the event of those things that happen to mortal men, according to their prayers and desires: if she cannot, of what use is this unprofitable Goddess, who hath no rule in her own kingdom?—Why then do we build temples to her? why do we enquire at her oracle; or render her favourable to us by the expence of sacrifices?—It must be a vain devotion which we use, where there is nothing to fear or to hope. — But if you think human

human affairs are in her disposal, and distributed according to the piety of her suppliants, it is no longer this FORTUNE of the vulgar, that scatters her blessings indiscriminately without judgment. To speak more plainly, you came hither to obtain somewhat of Fortune; you have offered sacrifice, she hath accepted it. Do you believe that your affairs will succeed better, than if you had neglected this duty?—If you believe this, then is not Fortune rash or blind, but knows upon whom it is fit to bestow her favours; that is, she is not that Fortune of the vulgar: but if you think this sacrifice unprofitable, why then do you pay this devotion, when it cannot profit you?—But perhaps you will say, we come not here to alter the destiny that is ordained to our enterprize, but to learn from the oracle what it is.—If you think so, you confess that Fortune knows wherein the Gods will reward or punish you; and in consequence, that nothing falls out in the world without the direction or appointment of the Gods. You see, noble stranger, how

how I have degraded Fortune; not her that I worship, but her whom the ignorant feign, and whose character cannot possibly agree with that absolute foreknowledge that governeth the world, which first framed nature, gave all things their proper causes, and doth by a secret dispose of its own, continue and propagate them.

Now that power and foreknowledge of God, which foresees all things to come, and clearly apprehends whatever is unknown to us, is what we philosophers worship under the name of Fortune, because those things that seem casual to our blindness, are certain to him who foresees all things. As therefore we call the wisdom of God, Pallas; as we call him by different names in rain and fair weather, so that part of his government which is hidden from us, and holds our minds in suspense, we call Fortune. To her we erect a temple and an image, that she might teach us things to come, make our future actions successful, and accept the prayers we offer up for our safety; which, if we prefer with a religious heart, they

they are then available. This is the Fortune, stranger, that you must worship, I mean the Supreme Being, who hath promised a happy event to thy purposes. Go then under the protection of our FORTUNE, that is, the greatest of all the Gods."

Now that power and foreknowledge of God, which foresees all things to come, and clearly apprehends whatever is unknown to us, is what we philosophers worship under the name of Fortune, because those things that seem casual to our minds, are certain to him who foresees all things. As therefore we call the wisdom of God,allas, as we call him by different names in vain and fair weather, so that part of his government which is hidden from us, and holds our minds in suspense, we call Fortune.

To her we erect a temple and an image, that she might teach us things to come, shake our future actions successful, and accept the prayers we offer up for our safety, which, if we prefer with a religious heart

CHAP. VIII.

Arſidas goes on board a ſtrange ſhip. Gobrias relates the hiſtory of his kingdom.—The ſtate of Britomandes. The tyranny of Com-mindorix. The diſtreſs of Timandra. The birth and infancy of Aſtioriſtes.

THE maſter of the ſhip twice interrupted the philoſophy of the prieſt, warning Arſidas, that it was no time to hinder or delay his voyage; therefore returning thanks to the venerable prieſt for his wiſe and pious inſtructions, he gave him more money, to make another ſacrifice to the Goddeſs for their proſperous voyage. The prieſt attended him to the ſhore, and he went on board his ſhip. With fair and proſperous winds he paſt by Latium, and entered the Etrufcan ſea, which near the ſhore is full of deep, but not dangerous paſſages. They came next upon the coaſt of Liguria, when they eſpied aſar off many ſhips, that appeared like little clouds, or
rocks

rocks just emerging above the water. As they drew nearer, the master told them they were either a fleet of ships of war, or else of pirates, that meant to spoil and rob along the coast thereabout. That the safest course for them, was to make for the shore, tho' he was unacquainted with it. But the steep and ragged rocks hindred the ship from coming near the shore; neither if they could have landed, had they any way to ascend those cliffs; therefore while the sailors were in jeopardy between the two dangers, the ship was enclosed between the gallies that were sent out to fetch them. Arfidas wanted not courage to defend himself to the last extremity, but the timorous sailors reminded him of the seaman's law, if they resisted they must expect nothing but death; but if they struck their sails and surrendered, they might expect gentler usage. The mariners repeated these things to Arfidas, and because he was backward to yield, they struck sail of their own accord, and taking in their oars, waited the commands of those that came

towards them. But when the other gallies had fastened the ship to their own, they began to enquire in a friendly manner what they were, and whither they were bound?—The sailors answered truly that they were bound to Marseilles, being hired by a stranger, and withal pointed to Arsidas. He being questioned, answered more doubtfully, as one that knew not to whom he was speaking: he was therefore taken, and carried on board another ship, that which he came in being commanded to follow. Yet they hurt him not, but desired he would excuse their behaviour, when they carried him to their general. Not far off came the admiral's ship, with swelling sails, without the help of oars, into which when Arsidas was carried, the general met him, and giving him his right hand, told him in the Greek language, not to fear any injury from him. “But such, said he, is the order of war, that we must examine all that pass by us, not only our enemies, because oftentimes we gain information from friends and strangers, of what it con-
cerns

cerns us to know; yet if I had boarded your ship, upon your word given, I would not have hindred your voyage, if you are in haste to go." Upon this courteous language, Arsidas grew more confident, and, as far as he thought prudent, related his business; saying, that he was a Sicilian, and was going to visit a friend in Gallia. "Let me not be reckoned an intruder," said the other, if I desire you to be my guest for this night: you shall rest in my own ship, and be accommodated with the best entertainment we can give you. I am the officer of a great king, who follows us with the flower of his army. To-morrow I will present you to him, for he loves to see any man that comes out of Sicily; perhaps he may desire to learn somewhat of you, and I think you will reckon it among the favours of fortune, to have been acquainted with so gracious a prince." As Arsidas knew that it would signify nothing to be refractory, for by that means he might render himself suspected, and have a stricter guard set over him, he answered like

one that was well pleased, that he was entirely at the general's command; that a man so made a prisoner, and one innocent of any evil design, had nothing to fear, nor needed to shun the face of any man.

After this discourse had passed between them, they by various discourses, disposed their minds and countenances to chearfulness on both sides; the general, that Arsidas might have no cause to fear; and the other, that he might not seem displeased with his restraint. They conversed together, till the friendship that at first was feigned, by degrees became sincere, by the delights of agreeable conversation. Such is the nature of man, that noble minds are easily acquainted; and Arsidas, though a prisoner and retarded in his voyage, yet willingly forgave what had been done; while the general behaved with all kindness to Arsidas, that he might depart his friend. When therefore they had discoursed on various subjects, at length Gobrias, (so was the general called) questioned Arsidas of the affairs of Sicily, and the nature

nature of the country.—He briefly related the story of the civil war, the rebellion of Lycogenes, the age and virtues of Meleander, and whatever might be told without mention of Polyarchus; but he carefully avoided his name, not chusing to be obliged to speak of him before a stranger. Gobrias was delighted with this relation, and the just event of the war. On the other side, Arsfidas enquired the king's name, to whom he should be presented, the country that he commanded, and the design of this great fleet. Gobrias paused a little, to recollect himself, for he desired to requite the courtesy of his guest, and also to relate the story of his own country.—Then he began as follows.

“Although there is but little intercourse between our countries, and that only by commerce, yet we have heard of the troubles in Sicily; but no merchandize is sooner spoiled in bringing than truth. We have heard many things different, and some contrary to what you have now related; and I doubt not that the dangers and sur-

prizing fate of our nation hath by some means come, though imperfectly, to your knowledge. But that I fear to trouble you with too long a discourse, I would not only satisfy your demand, but I would also acquaint you with the life and fortunes of my king, from his very birth, a matter worthy of a full and perfect history." The noble subject of this relation excited the curiosity of Arsidas, who replied, that if Gobrias was at leisure, he would most gladly hear it. "You shall then hear a story, said Gobrias, worthy of your Grecian wits; for we have among us noble actions of illustrious men, nothing inferior to those by which other nations are ennobled; who by learning celebrate their own praises. But we have only the verses of the Druids, by which the glorious actions of our past times are preserved in remembrance. Yet they are neither carved in wood, nor engraven in brass, but are committed to the memory of the young men, and by their songs we understand the virtues of our ancestors. But lest I charge the customs of
my

my country with complaints, I will, my guest, since it is your pleasure, begin my promised history.

There reigned among us a king, called Britomandes, a name yet beloved in our nation, excellent both in the art of war, and in that of peaceable government."—Here Arsidas interrupted him, saying,—“You tell me the name of your king, before I am informed what country he reigned over, though by the language of your people, I conjecture you to be Gauls.”—“You correct me properly, answered Gobrias; we possess the greatest part of the coast between the Alps and the Pyrenean mountains; our country extends to that part where the Rhone and, above that, the Araris divide the fruitful fields. The soil is happy in all kinds of plenty, and the land peopled with a great and warlike nation.” Arsidas was struck with the names of Araris and Rhone, which by the instructions of Argenis he knew to be the rivers of Poliarchus’s country. Gobrias observed his musing; “Perhaps, said he, you already know what I

am about to relate, and I shall spend my time and labour in vain : tell me then, have our affairs been reported in Sicily ?"— Arfidas replied, " They have in some degree, but whatever news is brought us from thence, is like a little cloud in the air, which easily passes by unobserved. We had formerly some commerce with those parts, but the fury of our civil dissensions put a stop to that ; and it is the indolence of our Greek dispositions, that we enquire but little after the actions of those people that lie towards the north, unless when you lead a great army out of your country, and then we stand in fear for our common liberty. I therefore desire you to relate your history to one that is ignorant, and desirous to be informed of every thing." And this he said not as being entirely ignorant of the affairs of Gallia, but lest Gobrias should enquire what he knew, or knew not, and be diverted from the course of his narration ; for after hearing the names of the Araris and Rhone, he more earnestly desired to know the history of that country.

Britomandes

“ Britomandes, of whom I have spoken, said Gobrias, by right of inheritance reigned over this great people. He had a son, named also Britomandes, who, when he grew up to man’s estate, was afflicted with a sickness that weakened the powers of his understanding. His father married him to a lady of his own kindred, of whom it was doubtful whether she were more adorned by modesty, and all the female virtues, or by piety and wisdom, worthy of the stronger sex: she is called Timandra. The elder Britomandes dying, our happiness seemed to expire with him, for afterwards all things run from bad to worse; we found in our new king nothing that resembled his father, but his name and piety. There was among the nobility a man of great power, named Commindorix, in birth and wealth above the condition of a private man, and in effect, such a one as you have described in your Lycogenes. Under the reign of old Britomandes he was restrained by the fear of so great a king, but he was so powerful with the son, by the opi-

nion of his wisdom and valour, that in effect he reigned under the king's name. Timandra disdained this greatly, and endeavoured by all means to excite in her husband the spirit of his father and grandfather; but he, through the imbecility of his mind, revealed to Commindorix, who cunningly enquired after them, all the designs and advices of his wife. We being fallen from the height of happiness, which we enjoyed under old Britomandes, agreed to meet at his tomb, under the shew of piety to his remains, but indeed to ask advice of the oracle, according to the custom of our country, if any God would mark out a way for the destruction of Commindorix. Our detestation of him was still farther increased by the report that he had, by the help of the nurse, made away our young prince, lately born of Timandra, and aspired to the kingdom himself. You will wonder how the queen escaped the same fate, whether by her jealous care she avoided his poisons and treachery, or whether he thought the life of a woman beneath his consideration.

consideration. For my part I believe it to have been by the providence of the Gods, who so blinds the eyes of tyrants, that, seeking their security by unnecessary cruelties, they either know not, or fear not those dangers that are apparent and inevitable. When Timandra was with child the second time, she fearing for her infant, which was marked out for death before it began to live, resolved in good time to make the midwife, and two or three of her women, privy to her design, whereof I married one by the mediation of the queen herself. Of these she earnestly desired, if she were delivered of a son, to take him away privately, and place some other child in his room. They spoke to a country woman, well known to my wife, to nurse the child; her name was Sicambré: she with her husband, whose help was necessary, were sworn to secrecy, and when the queen was in labour, they were by my wife's means brought into the court. None were admitted into the queen's bed-chamber, but such as were privy to the design, and the

Gods gave success to their deception. The queen was delivered of a son, and the women by stealth conveyed a female child into the royal cradle. But what a situation was the queen in, think you?—The child that had caused her so much pain, she was forced to send away, and to reckon it a happiness to be deprived of her own offspring. She was perplexed left by the crying of the children, or the fears of the women, her project should be discovered. She was extremely weak with sickness and cares, yet she called Sicambré to her, who had the charge of the infant, and thus spoke softly to her: “I conjure thee by all the Gods, that thou be not false to me, lest while I seek to delude others, I should be myself deceived of my own child!”—The woman answered, “Great queen, the Gods have heard your prayers, and have put it out of any one’s power to deceive you of your child; the child’s body hath a mark on it so remarkable that it cannot be changed.” With these words she shewed him naked, and pointed out on
the

the side of his neck an ear of corn of a bright purple colour, and the same mark again upon his right leg. The mother explained the reason of those happy marks to be, that, when passing through a field of corn, she was frightened with a whirlwind. Timandra then embraced her sweetest pledge, saying, "Fly, my babe!—my Astioristes, (for so I will have thee called,) fly from the dangers of thy father's court!—The Gods grant that thou mayest hereafter revenge me upon them that will not suffer thy infancy to be safe in my bosom!"—Then kissing the child again, she wept over it. Then Sicambré took it from her, and having wrapped it in the swathing bands, conveyed it away, and departed by a private gallery out of the court. In the mean time the girl they had provided was placed in the cradle, and Britomandes being called to see his child, came in, with Comindorix, and with mistaken affection took another man's offspring into his arms, which, when he had recommended to the nurse's care, he comforted the lady in her child-bed,

child-bed, and went directly to the temple to give thanks to the Gods, being indeed indebted to them for a greater blessing than he was aware of.

Sicambré, to whom the queen intrusted the fortune of her son, was a woman of sufficient means, for the child could not so well have been concealed among those of high rank, neither could he have been properly supported in a needy family. As soon as she was out of town, she delivered the sacred pledge to her husband, who is called Cerovistus, and desired him to carry it tenderly. Respect, pity, and the greatness of his expected reward, recommended to him sufficiently the care of his foster-child. Going on therefore before his wife, he went to his own house, for he had a competent share of land upon the banks of the Rhone, near no town, and there brought up his family in the honest simplicity of a country life. When he came home, he gave out before the servants, that he had found this infant exposed in a neighbouring wood: he then walked out to meet

meet his wife at her return, and, before the servants, intreated her to offer her breast, (which were not dry since the nursing her own child) to this unhappy infant. —

Sicambré as if ignorant of any thing, enquired where he found the child, and why it had been exposed? Then she admired the beauty of the child, and seemed to be moved with compassion for it. Cerovistus pretended that he knew nothing more, than that in a certain path through the wood, frequented only by shepherds and hunters, he found the infant exposed by some sorrowful or inhuman hand. While he spoke the child cried, till Sicambré took it, and giving it suck, stilled his weeping and complaining.

Thus was the royal infant provided with a cradle, mean indeed respecting his high birth, but (as the times were) to be accounted fortunate. When he was able to walk and speak, he began to put on another kind of behaviour than is commonly seen in such kind of families, and was of a forward and lively disposition, well suited

to his beautiful person. Cerovistus and Sicambré, excited by their affection and knowledge of his birth, admired him more than any of their own family. They called him Astioristes, as the queen desired, a name that had been borne by many of our princes. It was difficult to relate all these things with safety to the queen, but Sicambré came once a month to my wife, and gave joy to her, by informing her of his welfare; for these folks bred in the country cared not to be seen at court, and they were warned by the ladies, that were privy to the business, by all means to avoid suspicion.

CHAP. IX.

Gobrias relates how Timandra revealed the secret to him, and sent him to visit the child. The beauty and courtesy of Astoristes. By the contrivance of Gobrias and Sicambre he is brought to the queen.

WHEN seven years were passed over in this manner, the queen, overcome with her desire of seeing her son, spoke to me, whom she had made steward of her household, in this manner: "Thou hast not deserved, Gobrias, that I should think more lightly of thy fidelity than a woman's. Thy wife hath long since been acquainted with a most important secret of mine; as an acknowledgement of her secrecy I will also trust my cares to thy knowledge, and discover to thee an action of the highest importance, on the concealment of which my preservation and the safety of Gallia depend. But knowest thou not already what the secret is?—Did thy

thy wife tell thee nothing of the business?" I was moved with expectation of the secret, yet I pretended more ignorance than was real, that the queen might think I owed this favour to none but herself; and also that I might commend the fidelity of my wife, who had not revealed the whole mystery, but yet had given me reason to suppose there was some great business in hand. Then the queen, with great sweetness and familiarity, related the whole story to me. I, who expected nothing of that consequence, fell into a fit of trembling, and with difficulty recollected my spirits before she ended her narration, and I praised her motherly care and contrivance, so beneficial to the whole kingdom, which was in the utmost danger from a tyrant. "You see, said she, the uncertain state of my happiness: I that am in so high a station, treated with so much ceremony, and surrounded with wealth and splendour, yet want the comforts that private women, who are mothers, enjoy.—Let us preserve, my Gobrias, by the Gods' assistance, this blessing

blessing for our old age.—I beg of the Gods that he may grow up more like his grandfather than his father! — I understand that he is very promising in his carriage and disposition; and I have sometimes observed his countenance, when his nurse hath brought him on purpose to the temple. But what a misery is it that I can scarcely with safety have a sight of my only son, and cannot speak with him at all! — I would therefore intreat you to go to the house where he is nursed: you can easily feign some reason for the journey. I will consign to you the pleasure I ought to enjoy, and believe that I partake of it if you are pleased with the charge.—You shall afterwards relate to me what you have observed of the boy and of his disposition. Perhaps you may contrive some way with Sicambre for me to see and embrace him.” When the queen had thus opened her mind, I gave her humble thanks, as in duty and gratitude I ought, that she was pleased to make use of my service in an affair of so great importance.

I was

I was in my heart an enemy to Commindorix, and despised all danger which so great a hope might bring with it. The next morning therefore I set out on my journey, and being directed by the peasants, I came to the farm-house. The yard was full of instruments of husbandry, and in the midst I saw a company of boys playing, full of innocent chearfulness. I drew nearer to see if among them I could distinguish the cause of my journey. O my guest!—I had no occasion for any to inform me which was he; the excellence of his nature pointed out sufficiently the offspring of so many princes. The rest, with a clownish or childish bashfulness, ran away from me, looking fearfully over their shoulders; but he stood still, unmoved at the sight of a stranger. He had a bow suitable to his years and strength, on which he leaned and waited for me. His hair was of a yellowish brown, and fell in curls with a beautiful negligence, not only over his neck, but upon his forehead, heated with his play.—His eye commanded both love and respect, and his

his countenance resembled the pictures of the God Cupid. I trembled with reverence at the sight of him, and prayed fervently that the Gods would preserve the blessing they had sent us!—but feared to speak to him as to a child of mean condition.—That I might not interrupt their play, I leaped from my horse, and asked him how he did, and where his parents were?—He answered, that his father was at work in the field, but that his mother was at home, and if I pleased he would call her forth.—“Do so, said I, my sweetest boy!—and if it be not troublesome I will go with thee to the door.” He took my hand, and began to lead me; and I asked him, jestingly, against what wild beasts he used his bow?—“My father, said he, will not yet suffer me to hunt the wolf with our Stidus and Ambinius; he always put me off for one year more; but I will thank you, stranger, if you will tell me how many days there be in a year, for I find that they deceive me because I am a child, and cannot tell how much time makes a year.”—I smiled at him,

him, saying, "It signifies nothing, my child, for me to tell thee, for thy memory would not serve thee to observe so long a time."—"O, said he, but you shall give me as many little stones as there be days in the year, and I will hide them in some place where nobody knows but myself, and I will every day fetch one away till the year comes to an end." I was delighted with his wit and industry, and walked the flower that I might enjoy his delightful company; but as somebody told Sicambré that a stranger was walking with her son, she ran out of doors immediately, being careful of her great charge, and came towards us with an altered countenance.

She presently knew me, but being uncertain whether I was acquainted with the condition of the child to whom I talked, she invited me into her house, and earnestly enquired into the occasion of my journey that way, and asked how my wife did. "I have much to complain of regarding my wife, said I, unless you will take the blame upon yourself, and confess that you

gave

gave her the lesson how to practice dissimulation and secrecy. I owe neither of you any thanks that I know the boy, whom you so obstinately concealed from me, but only to the queen herself. It is by her command that I now visit you, and am come to consult with you by what means she may gratify her longing desire to embrace her son; for to see him for a moment sometimes in the temple will not any longer satisfy a mother's love. It was easy for Sicambré to excuse her silence in this business; and after congratulating me, that the queen had herself acquainted me with the secret, she considered of many ways for bringing Astioristes to his mother; but all were liable to suspicion, and therefore did not please her. After long consideration, we could think of no safer course, than that Sicambré, who came often to visit my wife, should bring the child to a villa of mine at some distance from the city; and that the queen going to take the air, should pretend a desire to see a garden there, in which were many pleasant walks; from whence,
being

being brought into a private room, she might freely embrace her Astiorites without danger or suspicion. The time being agreed between Sicambré and myself, when she should come to my house, I again played with the boy, and endeavoured by all means to make trial of his genius and disposition. Then I embraced in my arms the precious child, born to be king of so potent an empire; and taking leave of Sicambré, I departed to the next town, where I passed the night, and the next day returned to court.

When I related all these things to Timandra, she was only troubled that two days interposed between her and her promised felicity, which being elapsed, and all things prepared, Sicambré came with the child. The queen, with as few attendants as possible, came thither; and after walking some time in the garden, she said that she would rest a while in her apartment; on which my wife led her into a private room, where none could overhear them, and then dismissed all but those who

were

were privy to the business, as if the queen were gone to sleep. Then the faithful Sicambre was introduced, who presented her son to the queen upon his knees. It was her pleasure that I should be present; but what I saw and heard, no language can describe. Joy, grief, and piety by turns invaded the queen's mind, and all exceeded the usual measure. Tears and sobs for some time restrained her language, and the ardency of her affection. At length she leaped to the child, and imprisoned him in her arms till they were both ready to faint. Then she put him from her, that she might the more freely observe his countenance, his eyes, and the proportion of his body: then again, with renewed force of love, she embraced him, and kissed every beauty she admired. Sometimes she seemed elated with joy, and foretelling him for her avenger, formed already to despise Commindorix; then the thoughts that she must soon part with her delight, threw her into fresh lamentations. What more shall I say; there was none present but wept at such a scene of joy, grief, and tenderness.

It was not proper that the child should know who he was, for his tender years could not warrant secrecy; therefore Timandra, among all the caresses she bestowed upon her son, let fall not a word by which he might know that she was either a queen or his mother. But being moved at her grief and unusual caresses, and seeing us all weeping, he broke forth into tears; and though he knew not who embraced him, he threw his little arms about her, as if nature commanded him. But the innocence of his years soon withdrew his attention, and he began, with childish observation, to take notice of the queen's dress and ornaments. The beds and carpets, and other furniture of the room in like manner attracted his notice; and we being delighted with his innocent behaviour followed with our eyes every motion of his.

While we were thus transported, the time passed away unperceived. It was not convenient that the queen should stay longer, lest her attendants might suspect something more than common: yet she
could

could not bear her son to be torn from her, till she thought of some way of enjoying the same happiness more freely hereafter. At last, fetching a deep sigh, she turned from the child, and commanded him to be carried away. She then explained her design, which was, that she would have me go with some company, ignorant of the business, to Sicambré's house, under pretence of hunting, and there exceedingly admire and praise the beauty and disposition of the young Astioristes, and to beg him of his parents openly, that I might give him an education suitable to his merit, which shewed that he was not born to spend his days in ploughed fields and a farm: and that after this the child should be brought to the city, and placed under the care of my wife, in order to receive such instructions as were suitable to his years; so we should be his governors, and he should satisfy the queen, not with a short and tumultuous interview, but with the daily view of his person and improvements.

CHAP. X.

The relation continued: Astioristes stolen away: they search after him in vain. Arsidas's disappointments. Gobrias resumes the history. The war between the Gauls and the Allobroges. The defeat of Anerastus. The taking an unknown youth.

BUT a great misfortune, worthy stranger, (continued Gobrias) prevented these our intentions. For, three days after this interview, Cerovistus, Sicambré's husband, came to my house with his clothes rent, and all the signs of extreme grief upon him. As soon as he saw me, no longer dissembling his sorrow, he struck his breast with both his hands, and cried out, "The Gods have determined to ruin us, Gobrias! Astioristes is carried away by night-robbers, and whether he lives at all, or where, is uncertain. A company of armed men took him away, and having first robbed my house, they after all set it on fire. They have rifled and destroyed the whole country round

round us in the same manner. I, escaping from the storm, could not follow the track of those villains, because they speedily passed the Rhone in boats that lay there for that purpose. What therefore would you advise me to do, or whither shall I go?"—

When Gobrias came to this part of his narration, Arsidas turned pale, as if he had been a sharer in this damage and misfortune, asking repeatedly, if the child were thus lost utterly?—"I was as much struck at these tidings as I see you are, my guest, (said Gobrias) but this so dangerous and sudden business gave me no time to be remiss or slothful. I desired the man to suppress his unprofitable grief, and give me all the particulars of this unhappy affair. Having heard the full relation, I had many considerations about it in my mind, from whence these robbers should come, whether by chance or on purpose they seized on the child; whether they should be pursued, or in what manner; and lastly, whether or no I should acquaint the queen with this misfortune.—But I shall relate all these

things at better leisure, for it is now time for supper to be served up, and my servants have given notice, more than once, that it is almost spoiled."

"But you shall draw no mirth from me, (said Arfidas) except you free me from this care, and tell me how the child was delivered from these villains, and what punishment the queen inflicted on them. Gobrias briefly told him, that both the queen and himself were overwhelmed with sorrow and care; and that, though they were obliged to mourn in private, and make enquiry after the villains under different pretences, yet all they could do, availed nothing for the recovery of the child, for they could neither find out who they were that seized upon him, nor follow any track by which to enquire after them. The queen therefore in her heart imputed this mischief to Commindorix. Such is the reward of the wicked, they not only suffer the infamy of their own misdeeds, but often also of other men's. But afterwards it was more certainly known, that a band of robbers from
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the mountains of the Allobroges, who chose rather to follow their trade in a foreign country than their own, to avoid the punishment due to their crimes, having assembled a large company, passed over the Rhone, and committed these ravages; then repassed into their own country laden with booty, which they shared among them, and afterwards separated, lest their numbers should be discovered. Thus this beautiful child was lost, and his mother almost distracted with grief, for the loss of her hopes and expectations.

Artidas at this account was still more troubled. "Methinks, said he, I have seen in a dream the preparation for a magnificent building, which, after the workmen had almost brought to perfection, and it was beautified with statues and ornaments, on a sudden the applause of those that beheld it awakened me, and it utterly vanished away. So after you had reared up this child, and brought him to years that promised he was preserved for some great purpose, you have suddenly snatched him

away from us." Here he paused, and being inwardly displeased, he despised the folly and ignorance of Gobrias, who had with so much circumlocution erected so fair a stage, upon which after all there was nothing to be acted. His disturbance was not unobserved by Gobrias, who being desirous to restore the cheerfulness of his guest, said, "If you will promise me to sup merrily, I will bring home the child, and restore him to his mother." At these words the countenance of Arfidas brightened up again, who was more interested in the success of this child, than Gobrias could have imagined. They then sat down to supper, and Gobrias excused himself to Arfidas, for placing one of the Druids in the upper seat; for such was the religious custom of the Gauls, that men of their profession, at all shews and banquets, were seated in the most honourable place. Arfidas sat on the right hand of the prophet, and Gobrias on his left. During supper time they discoursed of the Druids, and Gobrias was doubtful, whether Arfidas was more desirous to know
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the tenets of their religion, or the priest to instruct him. He informed him, that they were the supreme directors among the Gauls, not only in matters of religion, but in cases of civil controversy, and that the youth of the nation were educated according to their directions. He also with many words magnified their regard to poetry as a divine science, and dwelt the longer on this point, that he might be requested to recite some of his verses; which when Arfidas found, he urged him to it, and the Druid rehearsed some verses composed by himself on the justice of the Gods, and the punishment of the wicked.

After they had supped as well as could be expected on the sea, and in time of war, "It is time, said Arfidas, to search in all places beyond the Rhone, and to bring your prince out of his concealment." "We did all we could, (said Gobrias) but at that time all our labours were in vain. Four whole years we lamented his loss, in the fifth we were obliged to go to war with the Allobroges, who contended about their bounds,

and grew dangerous to their quiet neighbours, continually spoiling and destroying their country. It is not material to relate all the accidents of that war, which chiefly consisted in skirmishes between small parties on both sides. But we had one pitched battle, in which the Allobroges were defeated and driven out of their camp. Our army was enriched by the booty, and had more prisoners than they could well keep, with many chains and bracelets of gold, made after the fashion of the Gauls. Three kings of the Allobroges were overthrown in that battle, among whom the highest in honour and esteem was called Anercestus, whose tent, while the soldiers were pillaging, one of them observed a youth of singular beauty standing at the entrance: neglecting the rest of the spoil, he desired to have him for his prisoner. But he, shaking his javelin with more spirit than could be expected from his years, declared he would not be taken alive. The soldier could not find in his heart to hurt that delicate form, but calling one of his comrades to help him, they

they surrounded the fighting boy, and holding his arms they wrested the weapon out of his hand. Those hands seemed to them unworthy of bonds, and they thought no deceit could be feared from so noble a disposition: if therefore he would yield himself their prisoner, they promised that he should go with them as their companion, without any mark of captivity. He without any token of dejection said, that he would not contend with the Gods, whose pleasure it was that he should be a prisoner, and that he would be no less careful to preserve his faith to them now, than before he was to defend his liberty.

It was not without the particular direction of the Gods, that the soldiers were so delighted with this youth. They now carried him away willingly, but fearing envy or competition for him, they suffered him not to be seen by many. They were near the city where the court was, when they lighted upon me. If I have any faith in me, I stood amazed at the beauty of their prisoner's countenance!—I earnestly enquired

where they got this prize, and whether they would sell him or no?—They answered, that they had chosen him of all the prisoners for a present to Commindorix. I thought they named Commindorix lest I should ask him for myself. You know that the cassocks worn by the Gauls do not cover the whole body; while therefore I viewed him more attentively, and the Gods began to infuse into my mind thoughts of more consequence, by chance he turned about, and in an instant I was almost overcome with joy. In what words can I express what I then felt?—I spied, my dear guest, in that moment on this youth the mark of his royal birth—that ear of corn, which I told you the fates themselves had stamped upon the son of our queen. The sudden pang of joy I felt rendered me unable to speak: I was seized with a trembling and faintness that almost overcame me. I silently prayed to the Gods, protectors of kingdoms, that they would be pleased to confirm so great a hope!—When I was somewhat recovered, I spoke thus: “By Hercules, you have found
a noble

a noble present for Commindorix!—But consider, fellow-foldiers, whether it were not better to present him to the queen?—His age is proper for a page, and he, remembering by whom he was preferred to the queen's service, may one day requite you for your good offices.—If you give him to Commindorix, he will present him to the queen; and then he will get all the thanks and reward which, if you manage wisely, may be your own. The foldiers after consulting together, gave me thanks for my advice, and desired that by my means they might have access to the queen. I not only took that care upon me, but being jealous of this precious booty, and desirous to ask some questions of the child, I invited them all to sup with me.

After we came to my house, I began to question the youth, and first asked his name. He answered me, That when first he was made a prisoner, he was called Scordanes, but what his new masters would call him he knew not: “Then, said I, you have been taken prisoner before now?”—“Yes certainly,”
said

said he."—"From whence, my child, said I, and what was your first name?"—"I can hardly remember, said he, but when I was very little, some soldiers took me out of my father's house. I know nothing more than that we lived in the country, and that my mother called me Astioristes. Those that took me, carried me to king Anercestus, who brought me up among his own children. I lived happily with them several years. It was his pleasure that I should see this war, and learn the military discipline. I know not what is become of the king, and my own fortune is again changed, and I fear for the worse." I was now certain of the truth of this business, and ascribed this event to the Gods, who direct all human affairs. "Oh my child, said I, the Gods have directed all that has happened to thee! — be not thou unthankful to thy destiny, which after so many accidents hath placed thee in the queen's family. — Thou art reserved, my boy, for some great and happy fortune."

Wonder not, madam, said I, at
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CHAP. XI.

Gobrias tells Arfidas of his contrivance to inform the queen that her son was found. The soldiers bring him to court. The queen gives him to the care of Gobrias. Anerastes makes a search after him by the name of Scordanes. He is totally defeated, and loses his two sons. The youthful exercises of Astioristes.

I Passed an unquiet night between hopes and fears, and even the greatness of my joy contributed to my restlessness. In the morning I gave notice to the soldiers that I was going to procure them access to the queen. Then I put on a festival robe and a garland, as if I were going to sacrifice. My countenance also was more chearful than common, which the joy for the late victory seemed to authorize. In this habit I saluted the queen, resolving by degrees to prepare her for that happiness which might be too great for her to support on a sudden. “Wonder not, madam, said I, at the
the

the joy expressed in my habit and countenance: the Gods have favoured me with a vision that compels me to it; and that I may no longer dissemble, it is on your account that I am thus joyful. Mercury, or some other messenger of the Gods, that foretels future events to men in dreams, has shewed me, that this shall be a most happy day to you." "What mountains of joy are these thou speakest of Gobrias?" said the queen, or what dream hath bereft thee of thy wits?"—"I saw after morning, replied I, when dreams are most to be relied upon, a youth of most lovely aspect, who spoke to me in this manner: "Go to the queen, Gobrias, and tell her, I am coming, and she shall this day see him, whom she hath so long and so earnestly desired."—And who art thou said I?—for there is but little difference between thy countenance and any of the offspring of the Gods.—At this he seemed displeased. "Art thou, said he, so forgetful as to want an instructor to shew thee Astioristes?—dost thou not know thy prince, and the son of Timandra?"—

Instantly

Instantly I called him to mind, and as I strove to embrace him, the violence of my emotions awakened me. It was a heavenly presage, as you may perceive; for by the impulse of the Gods I am assured of the event; I have no doubt but that this day you shall enjoy your Astoristes."

The queen hearing this, hung down her head in pensive silence; and when she lifted up her eyes, she shewed no sign of joy, so that I began to repent of my trifling.—At last, "Why, said she, dost thou renew the remembrance of my sorrows?—This is either some vain illusion of the imagination, or, if the Gods design any thing by it, I shall this day end my life, and in the regions below embrace the ghost of my son." "Nay, madam, said I, I am so confident of the truth of this dream, that if it come not to pass, banish me, or, what is worse, hate me.—And I am now going to the temple to pray to the Gods to make good their promise." I drew her into better hopes by my confidence, and then went back to my house, which I accounted

accounted as the temple from whence I should bring the happiness I had promised her. I therefore brought the soldiers with their charge to the gate of the palace, and presented them to the captain of the guard, who was my particular friend, but a stranger to the business in hand, desiring him after a time to bring them before the queen, to whom I returned, but kept silence, expecting her to speak to me. She seemed in great anxiety of mind, frequently changing her place, and often casting her eye upon me; when behold, the captain of the guard came in as I had desired, and told her that there was a most beautiful youth without, whom two soldiers had brought as a present for the queen. The troubled mind of Timandra did not yet perceive the design of the destinies, though they began to discover it. Not suspecting any thing, she commanded the soldiers to be admitted; but as soon as they came into her presence with their charge, she was struck with surprize, and her astonishment and passion increasing, she seemed like

one in a trance. She had scarce patience to hear the soldiers presenting their gift, but with a rash and incautious hastiness she looked upon the boy's neck, and knew the mark he was born with. To conceal the perturbation of her mind, she covered her face with her garment, as if something ailed her eyes: when she had composed her countenance, she unveiled her face, and with many thanks and gracious words dismissed the soldiers. She then called me aside, "O thou juggler, said she, that dreamest waking!—thou didst ascribe to fancy what thou knewest to be real, that thou mightest defer my happiness. But dost thou know how I will be revenged of thee?—thy reward shall be the slower, which I confess I owe thee in the highest degree. Hereafter thou shalt tell me by what fortune thou didst happen on the child. Now take him home with thee, and educate him as for our service: let us bring him up in a manner suitable to his birth, and in the mean time I may enjoy his company without suspicion."

After

After having spoken thus to me privately, she publicly delivered the child into my care, whom we called Scordanes. The queen withdrew herself into her private apartment, where she might freely indulge her joy. We paid the foldiers their reward, a princely one indeed, but yet not equal to the gift. But behold, in the midst of this calm a sudden and violent tempest arose, which was likely to have overfet our bark. The king Anercestus sent heralds to demand a most lovely boy, called Scordanes, and offered an hundred talents for the ransom of the youth, whom he loved as one of his own children. We were alarmed at this proposal; for how could the queen without envy or suspicion detain him whom his master valued at so high a rate?—It would at least seem cruelty to deny an old man this comfort, and the youth his good fortune. Whether Scordanes himself would stay, was a question, if he could escape; or whether he might not be stolen away by some that were greedy of the great reward. While we

were

were under these fears and perplexities, not able to give the child up to Anercestus, nor knowing on what pretence to detain him, fortune was averse to Anercestus, and favourable to us; for at this time his subjects rose in rebellion. The war was sudden and short, and the issue proved fatal to the unfortunate old man, who lost two hopeful sons in battle, and it was supposed that he also was slain, though his body was not found; after which, they who deposed him usurped his kingdom.

Scordanes could hardly bear to hear of the misfortunes that befel Anercestus, such were his understanding, his piety and affection beyond his years; and yet at last he suffered himself to be comforted by reason and arguments. He now began to excel in all his exercises, and filled all ranks and ages with the greatest expectations of him. He was so perfect in horsemanship, in casting the javelin, and in hitting the mark with his arrows, that, outstripping all those of his own age, his teachers themselves envied his dexterity. Nor were these excellencies

lencies in his nature attended by pride or arrogance: all men were willing to give him the preference, because he overcame them in gentleness and courtesy, as much as in manly exercises. Courteous and obliging in speech, seeking all men's love and esteem. He was also peculiarly happy in witty replies and innocent jests, which he always took care to render inoffensive to every man. He had great strength and agility of body, which he confirmed by wrestling, running, hunting, and breaking horses for the chariot and the course. He also used a temperate diet and little sleep, and enured himself to all weathers; all which established him in sound health of body. Finally, both the queen and myself were extremely delighted to observe that he resembled his grandfather, not only in his countenance and disposition, but also in his words and actions.

CHAP. XII.

The relation of the conspiracy of Commindorix. The resolution of Britomandes. The queen declares Astoristes to be her son.

THE royal youth was not much above sixteen years old, when the fates shewed that they had thus ripened his abilities both of body and mind, to prevent the ruin of the kingdom. For Commindorix being too much respected, and intrusted with too great a power, grew insufferably insolent to all men. His cruelty became insupportable to our patience; by his daily villanies he grew more confident, having long experienced that he might securely despise Britomandes. At length he began openly to aspire to the throne, and his followers seconding his ambition, gave out every where that the kingdom was sick under Britomandes, and must be cured by one of greater abilities; and that the kingdom would be more obliged

obliged to Commindorix than he to it, if he would deign to take the sovereignty upon him. It would signify little, they said, to Britomandes, a man incapable of government, and who, besides, had no son to succeed him. That Commindorix was one of the first nobility, a man of equal courage and abilities, and every way qualified to hold the reigns of government. And now this traiterous design was just ready to be put in execution, it was reported that the tyrant had it in consideration what fortress Britomandes and Timandra should be kept in; what revenue should be allowed for their maintenance; what attendance they should have, and what guard. In the end he so much despised and affronted the unhappy Britomandes, as to ask him seriously if he would, of his own accord, resign the office of a king, which was too great a burthen for him, and attended with such multiplicity of business as must be very troublesome and inconvenient. The king was roused by this base proposal; yet, tho' he deeply resented it, restrained his indignation for

for the present; but afterwards he acquainted Timandra, and lamented his hard fortune to her, who saw that she must not delay her design any longer, and resolved, if the fates should oppose her, at least to fall nobly. "My dear husband, said she, I have the means in my hand to free you from this inglorious slavery, and from the designs of your cruel enemy; but I have reason to fear, lest your easiness and their artifices should lay us open to our adversaries, and overthrow my projects and ourselves at the same time." The king then called upon all the powers of heaven to witness that he would second all her intentions with his secrecy and authority. He acknowledged how much he had erred in times past, for want of proper regard to her advice; but now that he felt the violence of his wrongs, and saw the danger so near him, he declared he would resent his injuries, and act with the utmost resolution.

Timandra, at these words, was encouraged to proceed. "If you will keep your word, said the queen, to-morrow we will

secure our state and honour, by a victory over our enemies, or else die like princes." She revealed her purpose to none that night, but she ordered some that she knew to be most faithful to attend her early in the morning; and commanded me to bring my pupil to her at the same time, but with so composed a countenance and manner, that I did not so much as conjecture that she had any great or unusual business in hand.

Commindorix at this time was gone a hunting, having set out two days before to a seat of the king's, some miles from the city, where there was a park and plenty of game preserved for the king's pleasure. We met together at court by break of day, as the queen commanded; we were about sixteen in all, whom she brought together before the king, all of the nobility, and either publicly or privately all enemies to Commindorix. She commanded my pupil to draw near, while she thus addressed the king. "I am yet doubtful, my lord, whether what I have to confess to you will appear

appear in your judgment a fault or a glorious action. I have concealed your good fortune from you in order to preserve it for you; for if your enemies had known or suspected it, they would long since have destroyed that which I trust is grown up to maturity for their destruction. Pardon therefore, Sire, my long silence, which kept from you the greatest blessing the Gods have sent us! — In a word, Sire, to declare the whole truth—no longer think that you are without a son, for as long as this youth lives, you shall not want an heir, nor the kingdom a lawful successor! — For by all the Gods whom it is lawful to invoke! this is your son, whom I bore to you at the time that I feigned to be delivered of a daughter, whom, during the few months it lived, you called Timandra. The cause of this deception was, lest the ambition and villany of Commindorix, whose designs I long since perceived, should lead him to exercise his artful cruelty upon our son. And though it be not often excusable to praise any one to his face, yet

I will speak of what cannot be concealed; that he is grown up with a disposition worthy of his ancestors, and the Gods, in their gifts to him, have favoured my intentions more than I durst presume to ask or expect. He fell into the hands of trusty servants as soon as he was born, who, though not wealthy, took all possible care of him. When a child, by the violence of certain free-booters, or else by the peculiar care of heaven, he was carried to the court of a foreign prince, where, without suspicion, he was trained up in all the beginnings of an excellent education. There he spent his childhood, and from thence, by the goodness of the Gods, he was returned to us as a prisoner of war. Here he began to enter into man's estate, and begins to be capable of supporting us at the very crisis of time, when Commindorix is no longer sufferable, who must now, my lord, either be immediately suppressed, or acknowledged for our master. We stand upon the brink of ruin!—What have we to expect but chains and imprisonment?—

Rouse

Rouse yourself, my dearest lord!—revenge the injuries you have received from Com-mindorix, and the insolence with which he hath treated you for so many years!—If you have been careless of yourself, at least preserve for your son the inheritance of his ancestors.—Take pity upon these noble-men, your noble subjects, of whom there is none but must expect death or slavery from him, because they have supported your right and dignity!—Do not betray your-self—your wife—your son—and all your faithful servants!—Question not my fidelity, as if I would alter the present state of things, and would introduce an alien into the royal family.—Behold upon his neck, and again upon his thigh, the mark with which the destinies have sealed him!—By this mark he was found and known after several adventures.—by this I am assured that I was not deceived by those who were privy to the first deception, and had the care of him afterwards. The urgency of the times will not permit you to enquire into all the proofs at present; only

subdue your enemy, who is no way so likely to be overthrown as by this new and unexpected event. After you are peaceably established in your own rights, you shall at leisure be informed of every particular concerning his birth and education.—If you are not entirely satisfied, yet it concerns your interest to appear to be so.”—Then turning to her son, “O my Astioristes, said she, for so at thy birth I called thee, let me now embrace thee freely!—O my son, the object of so many vows, prayers and tears!—let me kiss thy forehead—thy lips!—Now I first reckon thee to be born!—This day I am first thy mother!”—All the company stood amazed at these things, except myself, who knew all these things to be true. Nor was I free from surprize at the queen’s unexpected resolution to discover all to the king. By the countenances of all present it appeared how astonishing this story seemed to them. They looked first upon the queen, then upon each other; some invoked the Gods, others shed tears of joy; others held up
their

their hands, and in silence admired the inventions of fortune.—But none present were so deeply affected as the king and Astionistes. Britomandes, overcome with joy and affection, was for a while unable to move or speak; sometimes he cast his eyes upon the queen, to whom he gave credit from long experience of her fidelity; sometimes upon his son, who was in the greatest agitation of mind. When the queen threw her arms about his neck, he durst neither to refuse nor return her embraces, but trembled with joy, fear, and uncertainty. Timandra seeing the tears run down her husband's face, took courage and presented her son to him, saying, “My dearest husband, give this youth leave to kneel before you!—or if you perceive yourself to be a father, give him your hand.”—The king then spoke thus: “My dear wife, the Gods are not so much mine enemies, as that I should refuse this my son, who by his own merit and virtues would do honour to a race of the greatest princes; trusting assuredly to your chastity and unspotted life,

I have no doubt that he is your son and mine; but if you could be deceived, and believe that which is not true, I will nevertheless have him for my own; and if there are no ties of nature between us, he shall by adoption make me a father.”—With these words he stooped and embraced the youth who was kneeling before him.—The illustrious young man, already renowned for every virtue, had long since engaged the hearts of all men; there existed, therefore, no envy of his good fortune in the affections of all that were present. They beheld him as their lord and master; they kissed his hand and his garment; and some of the oldest called to mind Britomandes’s grandfather, and observed that nature had transmitted many of his features to Astioristes.

The king then began to enquire by what means the Gods had thus preserved his son; but Timandra answered, that relation would be more fit for a time of leisure. “At present, said she, the time urges; let us keep off the danger that threatens us. So

long

long as Commindorix lives, I will not believe that we are princes, nor hardly that we exist. With what eye, think you, will that insolent man look upon this increase of your family?—But if you will follow my advice, he shall rage in vain. You may quickly and easily prepossess the minds of your people and the soldiers.—O that your health would suffer you to go to them, and with your presence authorize an affair of this importance!”—The king answered hastily, “I can go, madam; I will go!—and if you all approve it, I will assemble the people before the palace gate, and I will speak to them myself.”—“You will then do according to my wishes, said the queen, and let us use all possible expedition, before Commindorix can have either knowledge or power to counterwork our intentions.”—“Then, said the king, it shall be done instantly.”

CHAP. XIII.

The story of Gabrias continued.—King Britomandes calls an assembly of the people, and acknowledges Astoristes his son. Commindorix returns, and is opposed by Astoristes. The encounter between them; and the victory of the prince.

WHEN the king sent criers all over the city to call the people together immediately, to hear an oration which he intended to deliver, all men thought they were mad; for who could believe that the king, who had not shewn himself in public for many years, should come forth and play the orator before all the people. What strange and sudden accident could occasion this resolution? These things seemed miraculous to every one, and they enquired of each other continually, what could be the meaning of all this?—Some did not scruple to say, that Britomandes had called this assembly of the people, in order to resign his crown: in short, all men's expectations were

were raised to the highest pitch, and the streets swarmed with the multitude that flocked to this assembly. The soldiers of the guard were placed in order under their colours. There was a high place like a stage raised, to which Britomandes came forth, surrounded by his nobles, and sat down upon it with Timandra, both in chairs of state, placing Astioristes next to them. The people discoursed variously of this appearance. Some shed tears at the sight of the king; while others enquired what sudden honour he had conferred upon that unknown youth?—After silence had been often proclaimed, Britomandes stood up and spoke thus: “It is just, my dear subjects, that both you and I should return thanks to the Gods, who have given to me a son and successor to the kingdom. This young man whom you see here, is my son by the queen; but, for fear of our enemies, he was concealed and brought up in a private family, and after by various changes of fortune was lost, and then again recovered in a wonderful manner; this is the

first day that I knew him certainly to be my son. I am therefore desirous that my good subjects should partake of my joy, the matter being of the utmost consequence to the public, and have called you together for this purpose."—He then promised a donative to the people, and to release a third part of their tributes and customs, if they would shew themselves valiant and faithful subjects, by seconding the designs of heaven, which now offered an occasion of settling the peace and safety of Gallia.—After this, Astioristes, by the king's command, made a speech to the soldiers and to the people. He was before in great esteem with them, and it seemed that he was raised much higher in their opinion by this glorious accession of fortune and dignity. He made the soldiers his own by promising them a largesse to be paid the next day; and the remitting the taxes pleased the people in regard to their king; (for Commindorix had raised the customs very high, on purpose to make his master hated by his people). And as the donatives were to be distributed

distributed the next day, he invited them to a general feast. The noblemen that stood by the king and Astoristes were of great service in settling the minds of the multitude on an occasion of such novelty and importance. Some of them were governors of provinces, others officers in the army; all of them descended from the noblest families. The people filled the air with acclamations; the soldiers clashed their arms, and with universal eagerness, as the humour of the multitude for the most part is, the whole assembly assented to this good fortune; only the friends of Commindorix seemed to be out of heart at the ruin of their masters; or else, confident in his power, they silently threatened those who attempted these innovations in his absence. But they were too weak to oppose the multitude, who were valiant when no danger was present, but soon after were as much cast down and dejected; for in the midst of this combustion, Commindorix entered the city, being warned by some of his followers, that some strange

strange business was in agitation; for they had made haste to inform him that the king had called an assembly of the people. He came in his hunting habit, almost breathless with anger and haste. When he saw the people gathered together, and Britomandes sitting on his throne; not knowing what the matter was, but as if his frown could suppress every thing, he ascended the stage, and advanced towards the king, no man offering to hinder him, his long tyranny having caused as much fear in the minds of men as envy or hatred. So he passed thro' the people, who now began to fear they had done wrong. In his hand he held a hunting spear, and his sword hung by his side: a few of his household servants followed him, armed in the same manner. And now being come upon the stage, where some of the nobility stood about their monarch, "What business have we here, said he?—Who hath abused the king and the commonwealth, by calling seditious assemblies in my absence?"—All men grew pale and trembled through the very custom of fearing
and

and obeying him, and there did not appear much help in the king or those about him: only Astioristes stood fearless, and presently stepped forth to meet him. He commanded this tyrant to lay down his arms, and to approach the king in a more respectful manner, whom he saw sitting in his chair of state. Commindorix was mad with indignation, that any man should use such boldness to him; and, lest the insult should go unrevenge'd, threw his spear at the face of Astioristes: he stooping, avoided it, and the dart lighted among the soldiers; on which both of them immediately drew their swords.

Perhaps, my guest, our age hath not shewn an action more memorable; and that you may enjoy the greater pleasure, imagine to yourself a scene of such importance, and the actors of such consequence. All the space before the palace was filled with people and armed soldiers. The nobility that were of the king's party stood upon the stage; the king and queen sat higher than the rest on chairs of state. When they saw
Astioristes

Astioristes and Commindorix draw their swords, no man offered either to encourage or to hinder them. There was a deep and solemn silence, every one's eyes and mind being wholly intent upon the combat, for they judged that the event would determine their own fate. They also believed that the Gods were present, and sat as umpires in this cause, and that they would determine according to the birth of Astioristes; trusting, that if he were not an impostor, but the true heir of the crown, the Gods would not permit him, who had been preserved by such various and wonderful means, to fall at the very entrance of his happiness. The aspect also of the combatants excited the wishes and affections of those who were partial on either side. Commindorix was taller than the generality of men, of strength and proportion equal to his size, at the years of full strength, of undoubted courage and skill in the use of his weapons. On the other side, in Astioristes they saw a bold and lively, but a tender youth: his stature not higher than his enemy's shoulder, with
a face

a face like a maiden, though his looks were sharpened by anger and resentment, every thing in him being more likely to excite love than fear; being light and graceful in all his motions, and all good men pitied him for being matched so unequally. As for the rest, they were equally armed, each with a sword only; and Commindorix made no doubt, but with his first assault he should tread the stripling under his feet. But when the youth had put by his first pass at his face, and he nearly escaped the sword of Astioristes, then he began to look about more carefully, and to stand upon his own defence. Both their swords fell several times with ineffectual blows; at length, Astioristes having received the first wound on his forehead at the edge of his hair, with blood and heat he looked still more beautiful; and being more enraged, he traversed the ground, shifting his motions, and tiring his enemy with the changes of his action. His noble spirit was moved with the glory and reward of the victory, knowing that a crown should be his recompence. He was also inflamed

with

with filial piety, that he might deliver his parents, and establish them in their rights. At length fortune declared in his favour, and directing a stroke at the head of Commodorix, he cut off his ear. The tyrant shook his head, and muttered curses and threats full of horror; for this accident had marked him with the ignominious punishment usually inflicted upon thieves. He lost much blood, and his rage increased, when Astoristes, despising his enemy, scoffed at him, and thereby added to the pain of his wound. The combat was then renewed with fresh eagerness, till Astoristes, displeased with himself that the victory was so long undecided, made him give a lucky stroke, and fortunate for Gallia, for it cut off the arm of Commodorix, who falling with the blow, the conqueror came in with him, and with his sword ripped up the bosom of him, who seemed in doubt as yet whether to live or die.

Arsidas triumphed at the news of this victory, as if he had applauded the fall of a gladiator at the public theatre. "Me-

thinks,

thinks, said he, Gobrias, I now behold your Astoristes!—How dignified by his danger, and glorious in his victory, he presented himself before the king, the queen, and the spectators. How beautiful he looked when crowned with joy and success!—How he carried the sword in his hand, yet reeking with his enemy's blood!—It pleases me, Gobrias, to dwell upon the contemplation. But how were the soldiers and the people inclined after Commindorix was slain?"—"As you could expect, answered Gobrias, —with their shouts, applauses, and congratulations the whole assembly rang: and presently, by the command of Britomandes, the soldiers bound themselves by oath to Astoristes, as the true heir to the crown. At night the citizens, crowned with garlands, danced about the bonfires which they made for joy of this success. There was nothing heard in the streets but invectives against the tyrant, and the praises of Astoristes. Such as were common were consigned to oblivion; but those in verse being sung, were remembered for a long time.

time. Our poet here, among the rest, composed some verses upon this favourite subject; and that we may renew the victory and rejoicing, if you desire it, he will recite them, for he is full of courtesy." Aridas, upon this, that he might not seem to overlook the Druid's invention, intreated the poet, who was not unwilling, to repeat his verses; and he recited them as follows, in a manner not unlike to singing.

Of all the great celestial powers,
Whose altar shall we strew with flow'rs?—

To all the Gods your voices raise!
Not one alone such joy cou'd bring
To Gallia, such a god-like king.

O praise the Gods, the hero praise!

Say, by whose hand the tyrant fell?—
Did Hercules the monster quell?—

Or Cynthia's shafts the death bestow?—
Pallas her dreadful Ægis rear,
Jove aim his thunder, Mars his spear,
Or great Apollo bend his bow?—

All, all the Gods would present be!
All lent, brave youth, their aid to thee,
To free from bonds thy native land:

Thce

THE PHENIX.

237

Thee Gallia owns her Perseus;
Calls thee her hero, and her spouse,
And joyful gives her willing hand.

O day, too good to end in night!
A youth durst with a giant fight.
Who did that virgin's face deride?
As once in Delphos' sacred grove,
The speckled Python proudly strove,
And Phoebus' beardless youth defy'd.

O nature's darling! our delight!
Thy parents' pride, thy country's light!
May we thy offspring live to see;
Whether Aurora thou shalt wed,
Or Cynthia court thee to her bed,
And future Cupids spring from thee.

CHAP. XIV.

In which is related the gratitude of Astioristes towards Aneræstus. His travels under the appearance of a private man. The change of his name. Arsidas makes a discovery from the discourse of Gobrias.

ARSIDAS commended the verses, and then turning to Gobrias intreated him to proceed. "I will not, said Gobrias, detain you with an unnecessary relation of the decrees of the Druids, those of the soldiers, or of the people concerning the prince; how many days were spent in devotion and festivity; how the people flocked to the temples, and offered vows for the prosperity of the royal family. Finally, (what could hardly be hoped, considering so powerful a faction as that of Commindorix) the people on all sides agreed, either willingly or through fear, to bury all that was past in oblivion, and to unite in a perfect peace. As the night is far spent, and we have fatigued you, my guest,

guest, by this long discourse, I will briefly
 lead our Astorikes down to these times,
 who made the first use of his power not in
 riotous pleasures, or pride of his new ho-
 nours, but in the exercise of filial piety and
 noble bounty. He brought to court Ce-
 rovistus and Sicambré, by whom he was
 nursed and bred up, and made the man
 master of his household. He presented Si-
 cambré to his mother, who was soon pre-
 ferred to be one of her chief attendants.
 He renewed his friendship and familiarity
 with their son, who was called Cerovistus,
 whom he used to play with when a child,
 and raised him to the honour of his parti-
 cular friend and confident. But the most
 remarkable proof of his piety and affection
 was shewn to the memory of king Ane-
 roestus. He called to mind his love and
 kindness to him; the hundred talents that
 he offered for the ransom of a child, and a
 prisoner, pierced his grateful heart. Ti-
 mandra was pleased to see her son lament
 the misfortunes of his benefactor, knowing
 by her own deserts how much more she
 must

must be beloved by him. We therefore erected an honourable tomb for Anercestus, and also declared war against the tyrants that usurped his kingdom; and this respect of the prince to his old friend proved fortunate to our nation, for the enemy being vanquished, the country submitted to us.

Astioristes himself commanded in this war. In six months time he subdued, in his father's name, the strongest castles and fortresses in the Alpes; and since that time none of our own provinces have been more faithful to us: and when he had conquered the tyrants that sat hovering over the spoils of Anercestus, he returned in triumph to his parents.

In this felicity he governed under his father during three years after the death of Commindorix, Britomandes confirming whatever he commanded. From him the magistrates and soldiers received their orders; by him the nobles were preferred or displaced; upon him Timandra rested her cares, and thought herself fortunate both abroad and at home. She never had but
three

three children; the first was made away with at nurse by the arts of Commindorix: Astioristes was the second: the third was a daughter, born six years after him. The favour of the Gods hath preserved her hitherto, and she lives unparalleled for beauty and virtue, and she is called Cyrthea. In these two children Timandra placed her felicity. And now all men forgot the past calamities, when Astioristes (excited, as I think, by destiny) caused an alteration in our affairs, by his propensity to travel. He said he had a great desire to see other countries, and to examine what kinds of men were in different parts of the world. He spoke of Hercules, and Theseus, and other heroes, who from the farthest east, with such kind of life and such hazards earned their renown and immortality; but I believe he had other private reasons that made him take this resolution of travelling.

Calling therefore the nobles together, who wondered at this strange resolution, he told them, that he would for a time leave his parents and kingdom to their protection;

for that he had long since made vows to some Gods far distant from Gallia, that must of necessity be paid in their own temples. He therefore desired they would not oppose his resolution, nor by their murmuring at his departure give an ill omen of his success; for he doubted not to return in safety by the favour of his own country Gods, and of those he went to worship. But when we strongly opposed his design, and to our petitions added sighs and tears; that we might not with such ardency intreat, he seemed to yield to our request. But the same night he suddenly left the court, having only one companion in this secret and hazardous expedition: this was the son of Cerovistus and Sicambre, whom he had long made the confident both of his sports and serious affairs. Tho' they returned but lately, it is not yet known whither they went, where they lived, what dangers they went through, nor what actions they performed, they are so trusty and careful in concealing their travels.

But

But think with what fear and grief we were amazed ! How did the nobles, how the people look, when it was publicly known that Astoristes was departed ! — Many went about as if they were distracted, searching all ways and ports to find him, and to stop his journey. At last, Timandra kept us from despairing by assuring us, some days after, that she had received letters mentioning the health and safety of her son : nor then only, but many times after, she affirmed that she heard from him, whether it were really true, or whether she did it to comfort our despairing minds.

Astoristes had been absent about a year, when the infirmities of Britomandes brought him to his end. All men complained of the prince, who left the kingdom without a governor, so that no man knew whither. When the king was carried out to his funeral, it was more moving to hear the people calling upon Astoristes to return for the safety of his country, than to observe the ceremony of the king's obsequies. In the mean time, the business of the state

was to be settled. Timandra assured the people that her son was living and in health, and, till his return, he had committed the government to her care. They only opposed it who would have been glad that Astoristes had been dead; and these reported that Astoristes was lost, and said, that the queen ought not to be obeyed, who sought to obtain the sovereign authority due only to a king. By these means there grew a dissention among us; the greater part held for the queen, but others chose a cousin of Commindorix for their leader. The faction grew so strong, that forces were raised by sea and land; but there was particularly great care taken of the navy, because the faction wanted to drive Timandra out of Marfillia; and she, for the defence of the port and city, had drawn thither all the flower of her navy. When behold, at this important crisis, Astoristes returned.—We, who longed beyond measure for him, were now so overcome with joy, that we scarcely trusted the Gods, fortune, or our own eyes. Every

one

one strove to touch him, to view and re-
view him as he passed by. People of all
ages and conditions ran out of their houses
to get a sight of him; nor could he have
been welcomed with more sincere and uni-
versal joy, had he returned in triumph from
some great and important victory. Then
the hands of sedition were presently dis-
armed, and he was by all men acknow-
ledged for their king. And because his
reign should not begin with blood, he pro-
claimed a general pardon for all offences
committed before that day. He was pleased
to find an army in readiness, having occa-
sion to use it against his enemies. Having
therefore received the crown and the ho-
mage of his people, after the manner of
our kings, he for a time committed the
regency to Timandra, while he follows the
war; for he said he had enemies in Greece,
and should employ his forces. He there-
fore began to embark the flower of his
army, and commanded me to go before
with a part of his fleet, and to scour the
seas, especially those between Liguria and

Sardinia : and having performed his orders, and surveyed the coast, I now sail more slowly, waiting for his coming up with the rest of the fleet. When you see and converse with him, you will find, my guest, that I have been sparing in the praises due to so great a king. But since great part of Sicily is inhabited by Greeks, and I know that his travels have been that way, tell me truly, whether by sight or report you have any knowledge of our Astioristes ? ”

Arctidas now began to give credit to his hopes, and fixing his eyes upon the ground, he revolved all these things in his mind. — At last, — “ I have not known any such person by the name of Astioristes, replied he ; but perhaps by some other name I may. ” “ And truly, answered Gobrias, he assumed another name in his travels, in order to conceal his quality and fortunes. I have heard him say myself, that he was called Polyarchus ; and also that he called his companion, who among us is called Cerovistus, by the name of Gelanorus. ”

At these words Arfidas trembled with surprize and joy; whom when Gobrias observed, he began to have great expectations of what his emotions would produce. — At length Arfidas broke silence, crying, “What God hath delivered me into your hands? — O fortunate captivity! — else should I have wandered upon your coast, while your king pursued his voyage; and, instead of Astorites, have enquired in vain for Pollarchus, of those who could have given me no satisfaction. It is that Polyarchus whom I seek, and to whom I have such business to communicate, as it concerns him greatly to be informed of. — O blessed people in so great a king! O the fortunate and happy days of Gallia! — The glory of your name shall extend to all nations, who will strive and solicit to be reckoned among your friends and allies. This also increases my happiness, that I find you have an army in readiness, though I trust it shall not be for a battle or encounter, but shall serve for the ornament of your triumph; for your

antagonists would rather see such forces than make experience of their power. But it is necessary that I should see your king, whom, as a private man, I have entertained at my own house, as there is a league of hospitality between us."—Gobrias hearing this, began to treat Arfidas more respectfully, and by degrees founded him afar off, what was his business, and from whom he was sent?—But Arfidas, after the effusions of his joy were over, drew back, and was more upon the reserve, grieving at what he had already rashly confessed concerning his affairs, while Gobrias more discreetly had concealed that he was bound for Sicily himself. Therefore, now eluding the farther enquiries of the general, he began to desire earnestly, that in some swift bark he might be sent off to Polyarchus. "We will slack our course, said Gobrias, and without doubt the king's fleet will come up with us to-night; but if he come not up by day-break, I will then send out a galley with our ablest rowers, to carry you to him. In the mean time take your rest in this ship, and

and command here as among your best friends." With these words he conducted him to a bed, and lay down on another near him, but their joy suffered them to take little rest. Arsidas wondered that Argenis had not told him the true name of her lover; while she, in whom it was only the effect of forgetfulness, boded evil to her own commission, when too late she recollected the circumstance.

CHAP. XV.

The description of a tempest. Gobrias's fleet separated. They are driven into Africa. The resolution of Gobrias and Arsidas. The danger of Polyarchus.

AND now not only the commanders and foldiers, but as many of the sailors as could be spared from the necessary duty, were refreshing themselves with sleep. Only the master of the admiral-ship suspected the weather, from several signs in the sky and upon the neighbouring hills. He therefore warned the watch to be careful in discharging their duty; and observing curiously every breath of wind, he bade them assuredly look for a storm. About midnight, the wind rising from the mountains, began to play among the throwds and tackling with a kind of whistling noise. Presently after the sea began to swell, and pitchy clouds to cover the sky. The mariners now hindered each other by their haste, and making a great noise seemed to

second

second the roaring of the winds and seas. Gobrias was awakened by the clamour, and could read in the master's countenance the greatness of the danger. And now every man was forward to advise and direct, while the tumult of those who were ignorant of sea-business seemed as dangerous as the raging of the storm. The waves growing black by casting up the thick sand from the bottom, could not in the darkness of the night be discerned, except when with fierce encounter the foaming billows clashed against the ribs of the ship, and threw up sparkles like fire, which instantly fell down again. Then the foam of the sea shone in the dark, and with incessant dashing gave light in the midst of the ship. They durst not trust to their anchors, because they had no room to play with the wind that pressed them; and besides they feared, lest if trusting to their anchors, these should fail, the ships would fall foul with each other. At length the violence of the storm exceeded the skill of the sailors, for they could neither keep their right course nor remain where they were.

were; they were therefore driven before the wind, only letting fly a small sail, by which the ship made its way through the raging billows, and avoided their too often breaking upon her.

The night being spent in this manner, the day came on in the same, and so continued darkened with the storm, and presented nothing but the face of danger and of death. The storm continued the whole night following, but about break of day it began to abate, and then they knew not the sea, nor the coast; and taking a view of their navy, they missed the greater part of the ships, and feared they were cast away. And now being more assured of their own safety, they began to speak of Polyarchus, and to tremble for his danger. When should they enjoy his presence? — Where should they seek him, who perhaps was driven upon some unknown and dangerous coast? — Where were they, and what harbour should they find wherein to repair their ship, which had suffered damage by the storm? — But most of all, Alcidas lamented his

his hard fortune, that being deprived of so great a hope, he knew not where to continue his journey by sea or land. He must no longer look for Gallia or the Rhone, but search all ports and harbours whither the storm might have driven Polyarchus. Where should he find that Phoenician ship, that without the help of a pilot would run her intended course?—Besides, Argenis would reckon the days; and if he returned without a satisfactory account, he would be little better than a paricide. For, though he found by Gobrias's account that Polyarchus was bound for Sicily, yet he feared that these unfortunate delays would prolong his voyage, till the time were expired in which Argenis expected him.

While he was employed in these meditations, and ready to chide Gobrias for his unfortunate detention, the sailors cried out, that they saw something that they took for land. Gobrias then commanded, whatever it were, to make towards it. About noon they found some people in boats, who came out after the storm to see if any wrecks were thrown

thrown upon their shore. By them they understood that they were upon the coast of Africa, but that the shore was dangerous by reason of the shelves; but that Numidia was not far off. There was indeed a harbour near them, but little frequented, and doubtful in regard of its security; but necessity obliged them to run the hazard of it, thinking any thing less dangerous than the tyranny of the winds and seas. Guided therefore by those that gave them this information, they went forward, leaving a boat with some men, who, if any of their ships came that way might draw them together; and by the special favour of the Gods, all that were parted from the fleet of Gobrias came in thither before night; so that in this great tempest all were safe, and not one ship lost; and the inhabitants of the country paid them all the respects of hospitality, bringing them dried fish and such other provisions as their poverty afforded.

The storm was not more favourable to the fleet under Polyarchus. The confidence

he

he had in himself, assured him of the success of his wishes; and he thought of nothing but Sicily, his marriage, and his revenge. Meleander, he thought, should no longer seem him for a son-in-law. He now defied Radirobanes, Archombrotus, or any other rival to meet him in battle. And lastly, that law in Sicily, that opposed his happiness, he was resolved either to abrogate with his sword, or else give it a new construction. He determined that they should live according to their ancient laws and customs; and if Argenis had more than one child, the crown of Sicily should be settled upon the second. In the midst of these desires, he thought his gally sailed too slowly; he went to the rowers, and continually excited them to make more haste; when the tempest overtook them and put them out of their intended course.

Though Polyarchus was of an undaunted spirit, yet, when he saw the furious billows beating against him, and as it were vowing his destruction, he was for his mother's and his mistress's sake afraid. He therefore exhorted

exhorted those that were struck with the danger, to exert their best skill, saying that the destinies reserved him for a nobler fate than to be buried in the sea. Though he excited them with these hopes to labour in their offices, they could prevail but little against the storm, till the fleet being driven upon an unknown coast, the sea's violence was assuaged. But then the sailors could no longer work, nor the ships keep the sea. This was great vexation to Polyarchus, who reckoned every day that he was away from Sicily fatal to himself and Argenis. Yet, through necessity, he listened to the advice of the seamen, and suffered them to put into the first harbour, where they could find safety for their ships.

CHAP. XVI.

Polyarchus lands in Mauritania. Sends Gelanorus to Hyanisbé. The reception of Polyarchus. The design of Radiobanes upon Mauritania; with an account of the letters of Archombrotus.

THEY were yet uncertain what country lay before them; but the many trees and verdant hills shewed it to be a pleasant and fertile land. There were several small vessels for fishing and trade lying at anchor; they therefore sent in a light pinnace, to enquire what country it was, which brought word that it was Mauritania. Presently Polyarchus went upon deck to view the place; “O Gelanorus, said he! dost not thou know this river?—Rememberest thou not the city of Lixa, and the queen’s palace yonder upon the hill?—This is that Mauritania with which we have alliance; this is the kingdom of the excellent queen Hyanisbé!—The fates are not altogether our enemies, that have driven us, tired and weather-

weather-beaten, upon a friendly shore. But lest the Mauritians should be alarmed at the coming of our fleet, go before us to the queen; inform her by what accident I am brought hither, and intreat of her a safe and quiet harbour for our shipping; and in the mean time we will wait here for an answer." Instantly the rumor spread among the soldiers and sailors, that they were near the country of a friend, and that both men and ships should be as safe as at home. They all readily believed what they so much desired, and with a joyful cry, bringing their galleys to the place whither they were directed, they lay to, and took in their oars, for they were not to enter the harbour till the queen had given permission. But as soon as Gelanorus entered the harbour, he began to abate of his exceeding security, for the coast swarmed with men, who seemed ready to encounter them. The reason of this sudden uproar was, that they had afar off descried the fleet of Polyarchus at sea; and having received intelligence (which had not deceived them) that an enemy's

enemy's fleet was coming thither, with a design to invade their country; and supposing this to be the same, they, full of fear and haste, ran to take up arms for their defence. There were yet but few soldiers enlisted, and but few ships in readiness; for the report of the approaching war was but lately spread abroad. The assembly was composed for the most part of citizens, who in a tumultuous manner surrounded Gelanorus with their boats, because he came as an herald from their enemy, and under that pretence they believed him to be a spy. Though Gelanorus was troubled at this reception, he proclaimed aloud, that he was a friend and an ally, and ought neither to be feared nor injured; and added, that he came as a messenger from Polyarchus to the queen.

By good fortune there were some present, who remembered him to have left the country some months before with his lord, who was in great esteem and favour with the queen Hyaniſbé; by which means the fears of the people being in some measure
 quieted.

quieted, they began to enquire after the fleet they saw. He then assured them they were no enemies to Mauritania, but that Polyarchus was there in person with his own army. So going on shore, he was directly brought to the queen, whom he so comforted after her fears of the approaching war, that she did not so much believe that Polyarchus was arrived, as one of the Gods, protectors of Africa. She immediately sent some of her nobles to invite him to land, while the queen enquired of Gelanorus of what country Polyarchus was king—against whom he intended that expedition—and for what reason he had formerly disguised his royal condition under the habit of a private man. As Gelanorus understood what was to be discovered, and what to be concealed, he satisfied the queen with such pleasing conversation, that she would hardly suffer him to return to his lord, to inform him of the generous reception which was intended.

For five days past the queen had taken very little rest or sustenance, being oppressed with

with public and private cares : for as soon as Radirobanes returned to Calaris, after his shameless attempt against Argenis, he began to fear that the disgrace of that enterprize would lessen him in the esteem of his people ; knowing that such is the disposition of the soldiers and the populace, that they value their princes by their success : that the fortune of men is generally ascribed to their virtue, and unsuccessful enterprizes are branded with contempt. Therefore, that they might not thro' idleness make him the subject of their discourses, and that he might employ his unquiet spirit in new business, he turned his thoughts towards a new war. He would not return immediately to Sicily, being assured that he was expected there, and that preparations were made to receive him. He therefore thought better to employ his forces another way, that his army might be kept in exercise ; and the Sicilians growing negligent by delay, he intended, unawares, to fall upon Meleander. Neither did he want an occasion for a new war. He had long since projected
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an invasion of Mauritania, and this was the cause of his preparing and arming his navy: but afterwards, the hope of obtaining Argenis, and with her Sicily, had turned it to a juster war against Lycogenes. But now he called to mind his antient quarrel against Mauritania, and it seemed that some new occasions were added; for it happened, that certain pirates of Mauritania (no less obnoxious indeed to their own countrymen than to strangers) had robbed some merchants of Sardinia; and he, at his return from Sicily, gladly heard the complaints of his subjects; and, as if this injury had been done by the country of Mauritania, sent messengers to queen Hyaniſbé, not only to demand restitution, but in a manner to command her to punish the offenders. She answered, that the goods were not taken by her orders; that the robbers were not in her power, nor did she own them for her subjects; that the Sardinians might revenge themselves wherever they met them, and that she would willingly assist in the taking them. But Radirobahes, by his construction of the
queen's

queen's answer, made it appear that the Sardinians were scorned and insulted by the Mauritanians, and their complaints disregarded, because they were not enforced by threatening.

Therefore, as if the peace was violated, he resolved not only to revenge the merchants, but to revive the antient quarrel of his ancestors with the queen of Mauritania; for some of the former kings of Sardinia pretended a right to the crown of that kingdom; and at this time it seemed best to Radiobanes, to employ the forces he brought out of Sicily in support of this claim, which had lain dormant for so many generations; and he promised himself an easy conquest, because a woman reigned in Mauritania. But that this unlawful thirst of war might carry the appearance of right and equity, he sent an herald to declare war, while he raised fresh forces in Sardinia. When the herald came to Lixa, and was admitted into the queen's presence, protected by his office, he boldly warned her that his master would invade her country, and

and lay claim to her crown, which, in his name, he bade her surrender to him as to her sovereign.

Though Hyanisé was terrified at this mischievous design, yet she answered him resolutely, that it was a base attempt, thus to attack a woman, because he durst not try his strength against a man: besides, it was perfidious to violate a peace of so many years standing, without any wrong on her part; but that she trusted both Gods and men would be on her side. Nor was Thomyris the only woman that knew how to satiate with blood those that thirsted after it. The herald departed; and when he stood upon the shore, holding a spear in his right hand, he spoke thus: "Whereas the nation of the Mauritians have injured the people of Sardinia, and being required, have not redressed their wrongs; for this cause, in the name of the king and people of Sardinia, I denounce and declare war against the queen and people of Mauritania."—Having said thus, he threw his spear

into

into the enemy's ground, and returned to his ship.

The principal friends of Hyanisbé took the liberty to blame her, for suffering her son to be absent, to whom the care of this war properly belonged; saying, that for this reason Radirobanes treated them with so much contempt, despising that army that was not led by a prince. But she replied, they ought rather to blame fortune than herself, which had disturbed the peace and quiet of her state with an unexpected storm; and that her son was not so far off, but she could easily send for him, and was certain that he would return immediately upon the receipt of her letters. In the mean time they levied soldiers, and used such diligence as the necessity of the times required. A few days after, as she was in council with the lords upon the present occasions, word was brought her, that one of her son's servants (and he carried only two with him) was arrived at the palace. All were amazed at the tidings; for this happiness appeared to them like a fable,

that one should arrive at the very instant of time, bring a certain account of the prince's health, and tell them where they might send to him. Now the cause of the queen's son sending his servant at this juncture was this :—When Archombrotus (who was indeed the Mauritanian prince) found that nothing was wanting towards the completion of his marriage with Argenis, but his mother's knowledge and approbation; lest that should delay his happiness, he sent his servant to her with such letters as a young man and a lover, but one mindful of his mother's authority, might be supposed to write. In his own country he was called Hyempfal; but, by his mother's command, travelling into Greece, and concealing his quality, he assumed a Greek name, and was called Archombrotus. In his letters he magnified his duty and respect to his mother, in that he concealed his birth and dignity, in obedience to her commands; but added, that now he was offered a blessing which exceeded his utmost wishes, the alliance of a great king, the possession of

of Sicily, and a young princess, whose personal and mental endowments were more to be prized than her inheritance, he must intreat her permission to discover himself to the king of Sicily, who had distinguished him by such great favours, though unknown; and desired also, that she would send some of the first nobility to assist at his marriage, provided with such treasures and ornaments as might do honour to Mauritania before the Sicilians, who were likely to become his subjects.

CHAP. XVII.

The queen is displeased with her son's letters, to which she returns an answer. Her conversation with Polyarchus, who resolves to assist the Mauritians.

THIS letter was very displeasing to the queen: upon the reading it she was seized with such emotions, that all present thought it brought some bad news concerning the prince's health. They enquired of the messenger what tidings he had brought, that caused such an alteration in the queen's countenance? — He assured them that Hyempsal was not only in health, but in the highest esteem and honour among strangers. And now Hyanisbé fearing that others would be alarmed at her emotions, composed her countenance, and told them that her son was well, and would shortly return to his own country. But as soon as she was in private with the servant, “I doubt not, said she, that my son has
given

given you a sufficient charge not to reveal the country he resides in; I pray you be trusty in this point, for I would not have it known to any of my people. You must set out to return to your master early to-morrow morning, and let your fidelity assure you what rewards you may expect from us both." Having thus spoken, she retired into her closet, equally oppressed with the affairs of her son, and the injury of Radirobanes.—"What a weight of business, said she, is suddenly thrown upon me!—On this side I fear the alliance of Sicily, on that, the war with Sardinia.—Shalt thou, my Hyempfal, be Meleander's son-in-law?—Why did I rashly send thee into Sicily, that thou and the noblest virgin in the world should be involved in the same destruction?—The heavenly powers forbid that should happen, which my rashness and folly have deserved!—Why, at the same time, doth Radirobanes seek to deprive me of my kingdom, and Argenis of my son."—And being in great perplexity of mind, she sat down and wrote to this effect:

HYANISBE to HYEMP SAL.

THOU shalt understand by these lines, how much thy purposes, my son, are opposite to the present state of our affairs; for the herald of Sardinia was hardly out of sight, who had declared war against us from Radirobanes, when I received your letters, which informed me how eager you are to conclude an unseasonable marriage. I rejoice in your virtues and good fortune, which have brought Meleander to think you worthy of being his son-in-law: but know that your honour will be stained, if you indulge your love, and suffer your mother and your country to fall a prey to the ambitious Radirobanes. Do not prefer Sicily as a dowry before Mauritania, your inheritance, which you will hardly enjoy in peace, except you presently return hither. You know how much easier it is to defend a country, than to recover it when lost. After you have triumphed over your enemy, and secured the peace and happiness of your mother, you may return more worthy of
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an alliance of any king upon earth. But lest you should think the delay of that marriage, which by a mother's authority I forbid, is only for the sake of Radirobanes, and the impending war; know, that you are undone, my son, except you speak with me before you marry Argenis.—Return home immediately to your affectionate mother, and you will find yourself abundantly rewarded for having performed your duty in this obedience: for it is necessary, that before you marry, I should acquaint you with a secret of the utmost consequence, which cannot be trusted to letters or messengers; and if you disregard this duty, I will deny myself to be your mother, and I will take part with Radirobanes, lest you should triumph over my inheritance, and enjoy the spoils of her whom you shall have killed with grief. But I hope my command will be sufficient, for I know your good disposition, which I think no travelling or fortune can change. But lest you should think I oppose all your desires, I give you leave to discover to the king

of Sicily, that you are my son, who, if he desires you for his son-in-law, will send over forces with you, to oppose the invasion of the Sardinians. I will promise that you shall return to Sicily, after I have found you a son, and Radirobanes an enemy.—
Farewel.

When the queen delivered the packet to her son's messenger, she added, that he should persuade his master not to make any delay in returning home, and that he should religiously observe the contents of that letter. The servant promised to obey her command in all things; but he was hindered by the tempest from putting to sea for two days, and was scarcely got out of the harbour, when Gelanorus brought word of the arrival of Poliarchus.

Hyaniscé then declared that these friendly forces were come by the direction of the Gods; and gave orders that Polyarchus should be received on the shore with all the ceremony due to a great king. When he drew near the palace, she went out to meet him.

him. The memory of the former benefit she had received from him, and the necessity of the assistance she now hoped and expected from him, doubled her attention to his welcome and entertainment. She received him as her son, only mingled respect with her kindness. Neither was he defective in his behaviour, which was humble and submissive to the queen, and so equally tempered with modesty and dignity, that all men present applauding, joined them together in the same vows to the Gods, as mother and son. There were also some appointed on the shore to receive his officers and soldiers, and entertain them; and they were all by public order lodged and provided for in the most generous and friendly manner. It was now reported among the Mauritians, that a foreign nation, nothing allied to Africa, were come to defend them against their enemies at the hazard of their lives. They therefore embraced and welcomed them, and met them with wine and garlands, so that the Gauls stood astonished, not knowing (these expectations they had

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formed)

formed) that strangers should be any where better treated than in their own Gallia. But the queen deferring her welcome no longer than while she led Polyarchus from the gate into the palace, "This is not the first time, illustrious Sir, said she, that we perceived you to be a king!—When you were lately here, in disguise of a private man, we remarked your princely qualities, which no disguise could conceal from those who observed you with care and judgment. You restored me to myself, when those pirates had carried away almost my soul in that cabinet; and now, to complete your bounty, either by your own free will or the appointment of the Gods, you are landed here with your forces.

"Radirobanes, king of Sardinia, projects an invasion of my country, which is unprovided for war, and grown secure by too long a peace. I am a woman, and my son is absent; receive me then into your protection, and let it be your glory to defend a queen injuriously attacked.—I yield up my sovereign power and authority into your hands:

hands: only remain here a few days for my defence, that no man may speak of the wickedness of Radirobanes, without making mention also of your virtues. Where-soever you are going, or how great soever your haste may be, this will be a lawful and allowable cause for a short delay."

Not only the majesty of the speaker, but her grief, and her eyes in which the tears stood ready, recommended her suit; and Polyarchus was ashamed to be slow in granting her request in such great extremity. But, on the other side, his sacred vows of love, and the unhappy situation of his Argenis, abated his desire to assist the queen. He was in amaze, that Radirobanes should be feared in Africa, whom he had believed to be still in Sicily; and inquired in what part of the world he then was?—Whom, when he understood to have left Sicily, and to be then on his voyage into Africa, he was seized with extreme fear, lest having obtained Argenis by fraud or force, he had returned with her into his own country. He therefore instantly enquired if she had

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heard

heard any thing of his being son-in-law to the king of Sicily?—Hyanisbé knew certainly, by her letters from Archombrotus, that Argenis was yet unmarried, and wondered what it might concern Polyarchus. She assured him that there was no such thing likely to come to pass: on which, though Polyarchus knew not who had assisted him by driving Radirobanes out of Sicily, yet he thought there was now no such urgent necessity to sail immediately for Sicily, since Argenis was delivered from Radirobanes, and in him, as he supposed, from all her troubles. Moreover he thought, that it would be deemed extreme baseness in him, to forsake Hyanisbé, and as it were, betray her into the hands of her enemy; besides, the meeting with himself was a motive for his staying in Africa. He was the enemy allotted to him by the destinies, and, under the colour of defending Hyanisbé, he might take revenge for all the grief that prince had caused Argenis. In the mean time he would send some faithful friend to comfort his love, and
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aquaint her with the task, fortune had imposed upon him, which prolonged his stay. But if this war could not be suddenly decided, but was spun out into length of time, he was resolved to leave a part of his army in Mauritania, and with the rest depart for Sicily.

Having weighed all these things in his mind, he answered the queen in this manner. "Pardon my keeping you thus long in suspense by my silence, Madam, and do not believe that I was doubtful whether I should forsake you in this distress, that is, in other words, whether I should be more wicked than Radirobanes himself.—But the wickedness of this man, whom I have long before had reason to hate, and the hand of fortune, that hath directed my travels hither in happy time, employed my time, and these motives have determined me to stay; for, whether I consider yourself, illustrious queen, your cause, or your friendship towards me, I am so bound to you in all respects, that I can deny you nothing. Since such is the state of your affairs,

affairs, I am entirely at your service; dispose of me and my forces, and be assured that I will not give place to your son himself in respect and submission to you; nor shall Radirobanes go unpunished for basely attacking you in the prince's absence."

This discourse was heard with joy by Hyaniſbé and her nobles; most of them ran to the temples of their Gods to offer thanks, with all kinds of incense and perfumes, for the coming of Polyarchus. Hyaniſbé did not oppose the devotion of her people, but invited Polyarchus also to the temple, whose piety also was excited by his last danger at sea, so that he willingly approached the shrine, and offered up his vows to their deity. The Goddess was worshipped under the form of a virgin sitting upon the back of a lion, whose eyes were lifted up, and fore-feet raised, as if he were climbing up to heaven. The ancient Affirians first worshipped the celestial Venus, the eldest of the destinies: from them it passed to the Tyrians, and was by them delivered, among other religious rites,

to Africa upon the founding of Carthage. This deity was at this time held in the highest veneration in Mauritania.

Having offered their vows to the Goddess, the rest of the day was spent in consultation and preparation for war. Fifty sail of ships came with Polyarchus, and in them twelve thousand men fit to bear arms. Some part of the fleet being damaged by the storm, were put upon the stocks to be repaired; the rest, with the gallies of Mauritania, were divided into several stations, to guard the coasts and discover the enemy. They thus made great preparation of warlike stores with all possible expedition, and chose a place between the sea and the city for their camp: the Gauls and Mauritanians were quartered together; the latter, after the fashion of their country, were covered with the skins of wild beasts, and using the hides of elephants in the form of bucklers. Polyarchus was concerned to see the small number of them, being not above three thousand fighting men; and the citizens that were unfit for service in
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the field, were kept within the city of Lixa, to defend the walls and ramparts: yet Polyarchus made no doubt of conquering Radirobanes with the forces he brought out of Gallia. But if the war was not soon decided, what must be done when he went to Sicily?—Should he go alone, or carry his army away, which was indeed the strength and defence of Hyanisbé?—Being perplexed with these thoughts, he resolved to persuade Hyanisbé to raise men of her own nation, and compleat an army for service; not as out of fear of Radirobanes, or once mentioning his own departure; but as if it might be expedient to carry the war into Sardinia, if the enemy should alter his purpose of an invasion.

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